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Reference	IOR/R/15/5/59
Title	'File XXII/1 Koweit relations with British Government'
Date(s)	13 Sep 1904-6 Apr 1916 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 volume (189 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
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About this record

The volume comprises telegrams, despatches, correspondence, memoranda, and notes, relating to Kuwait relations with the British Government.

The discussion in the volume relates to:

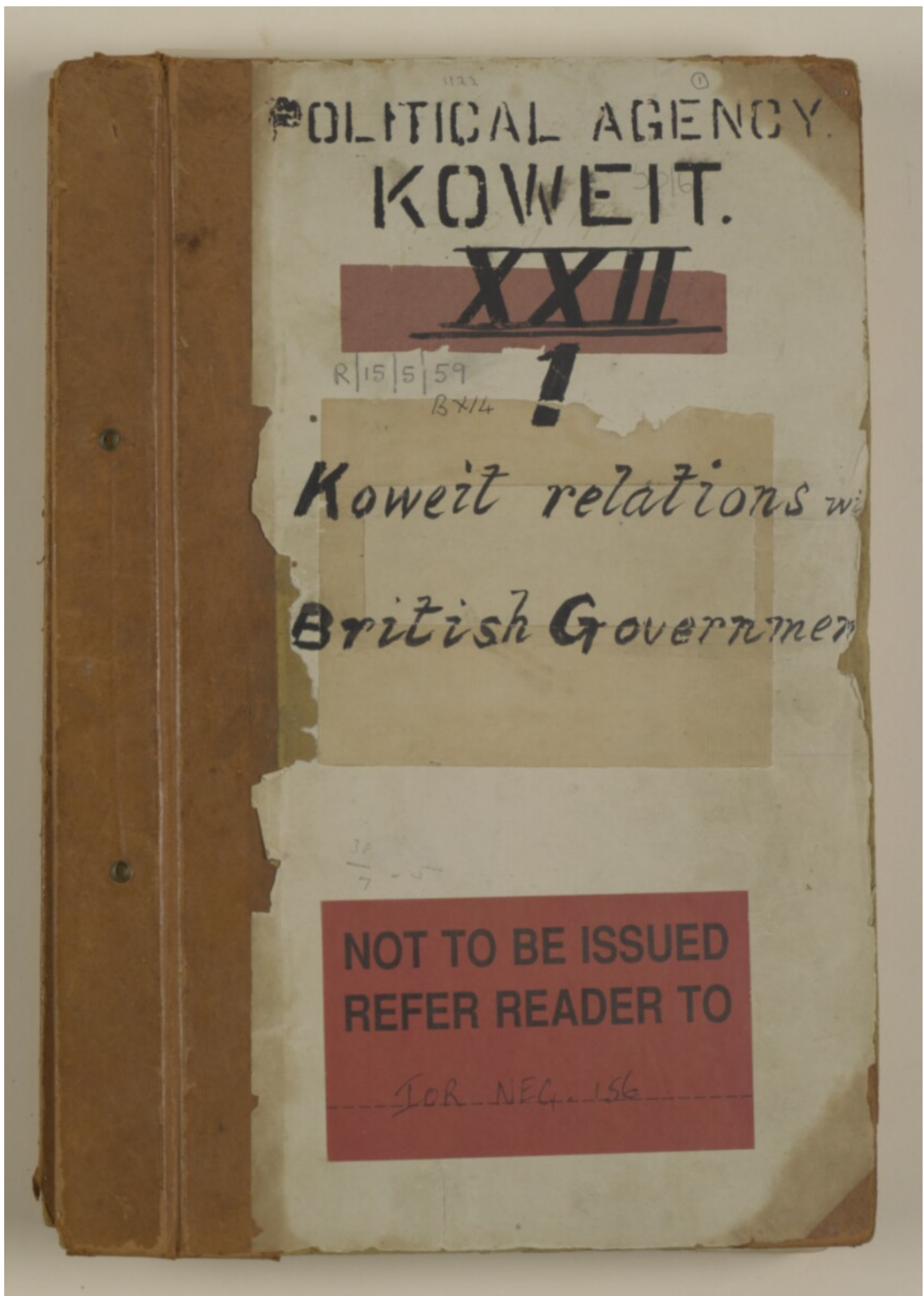
- appointment of the Political Agent, Kuwait;
- visit of HM Consul, Basra;
- customs and railway negotiations;
- the Anglo-Turkish convention, 1912;
- the death of Mubarak [Shaikh Mubārak bin Ṣabāḥ Āl Ṣabāḥ], 1915, and succession of his son Jabir [Shaikh Jābir II bin Mubārak Āl Ṣabāḥ].

There are a number of letters in Arabic with their translations, for example, from Sheikh Mubarak to Percy Zachariah Cox, the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf (folio 83) and to Captain William Henry Irvine Shakespeare (folio 90). It also includes the Arabic text and translation 'Secret Agreement Between the British Government and Shaikh Mubarak dated the 23rd January 1899' (folios 100-102).

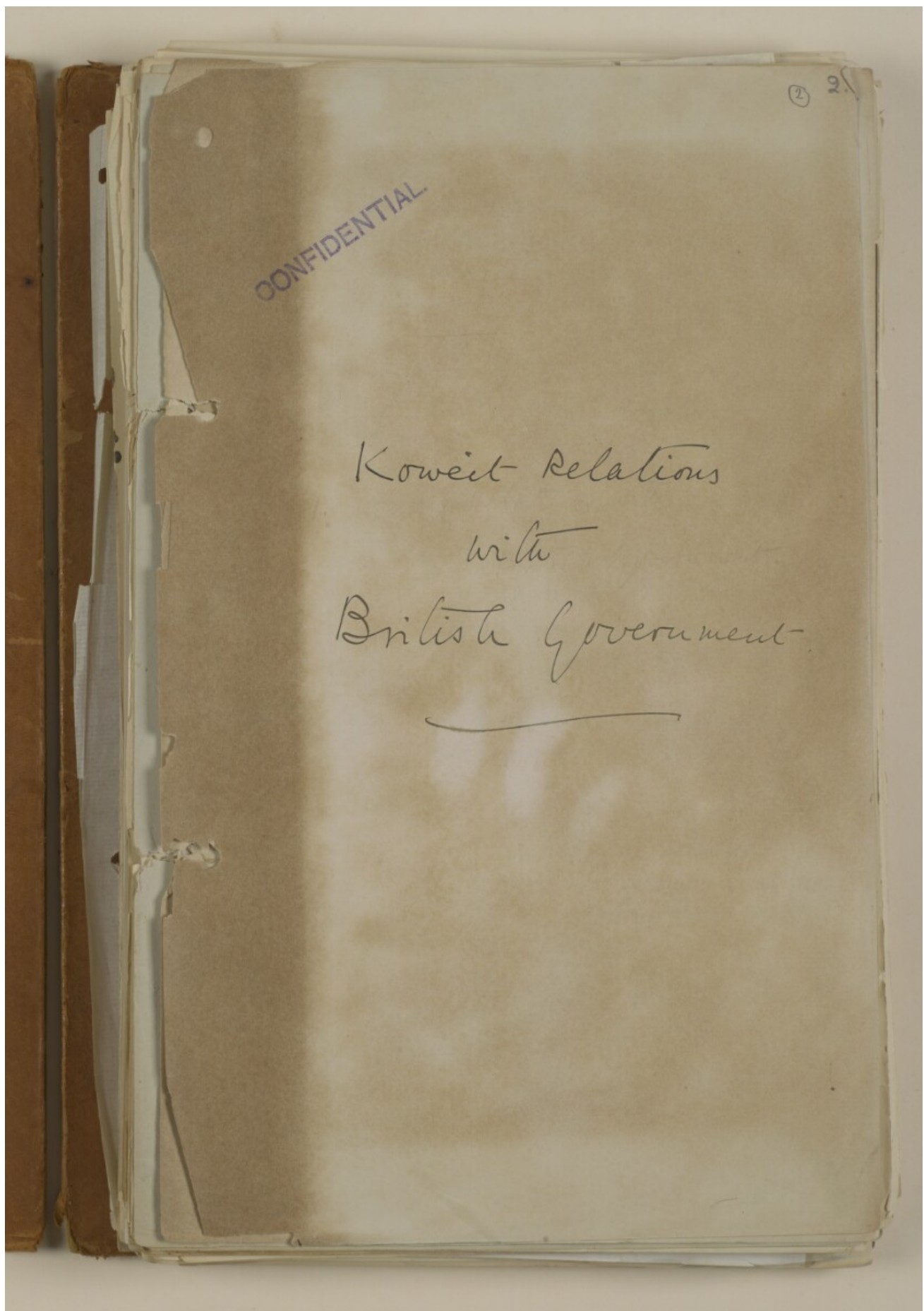
The file also includes a copy of the 'Maritime Truce Treaty with the Shaikh of Kuwait, of 1841 [with English and Arabic versions]' (folios 130-132).

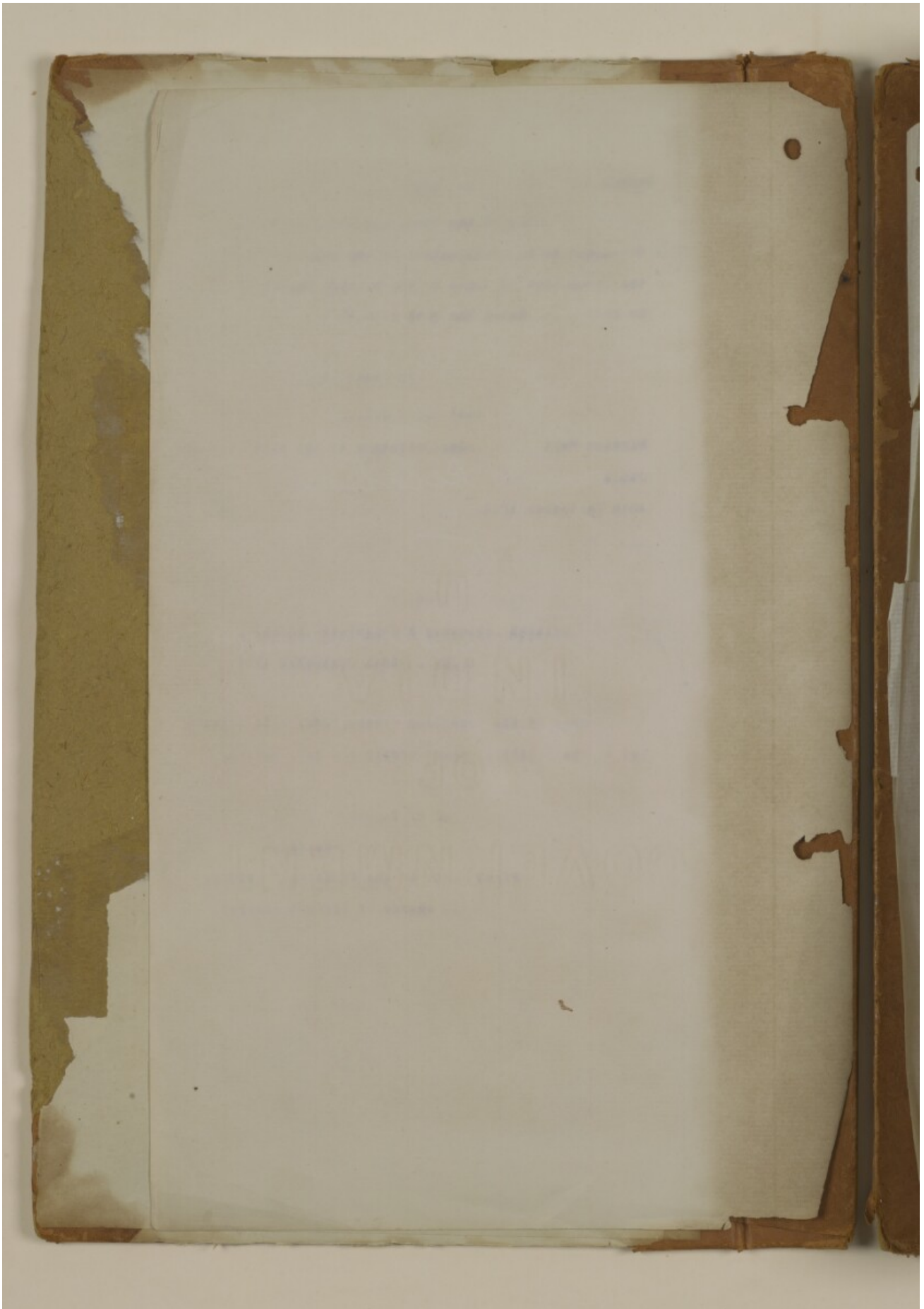
The principal correspondents in the volume include: the Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon; the Secretary of State

for India; His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Percy Zachariah Cox; the First Assistant to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf; the Under-Secretary to the Government of India; the British Consul to Basra, F E Crow; the Vali of Bussorah; Sadun Pasha, Seyyid Talib Pasha; the Ruler of Kuwait, Shaikh Mubarak; the Political Agent at Kuwait, Captain Stuart George Knox; the British Consul at Mohammerah [Khorramshahr].











③ 3.

CONFIDENTIAL

No 3020 —S.A.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded ~~to~~ in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No 2365—S.A. dated the 26th July 1904.

By order etc,

(sd) L. RUSSELL.

Foreign Dept Under-Secretary to the Govt of India
Simla

13th September 1904.

No 1117 of 1904.

British Residency & Consulate-General,

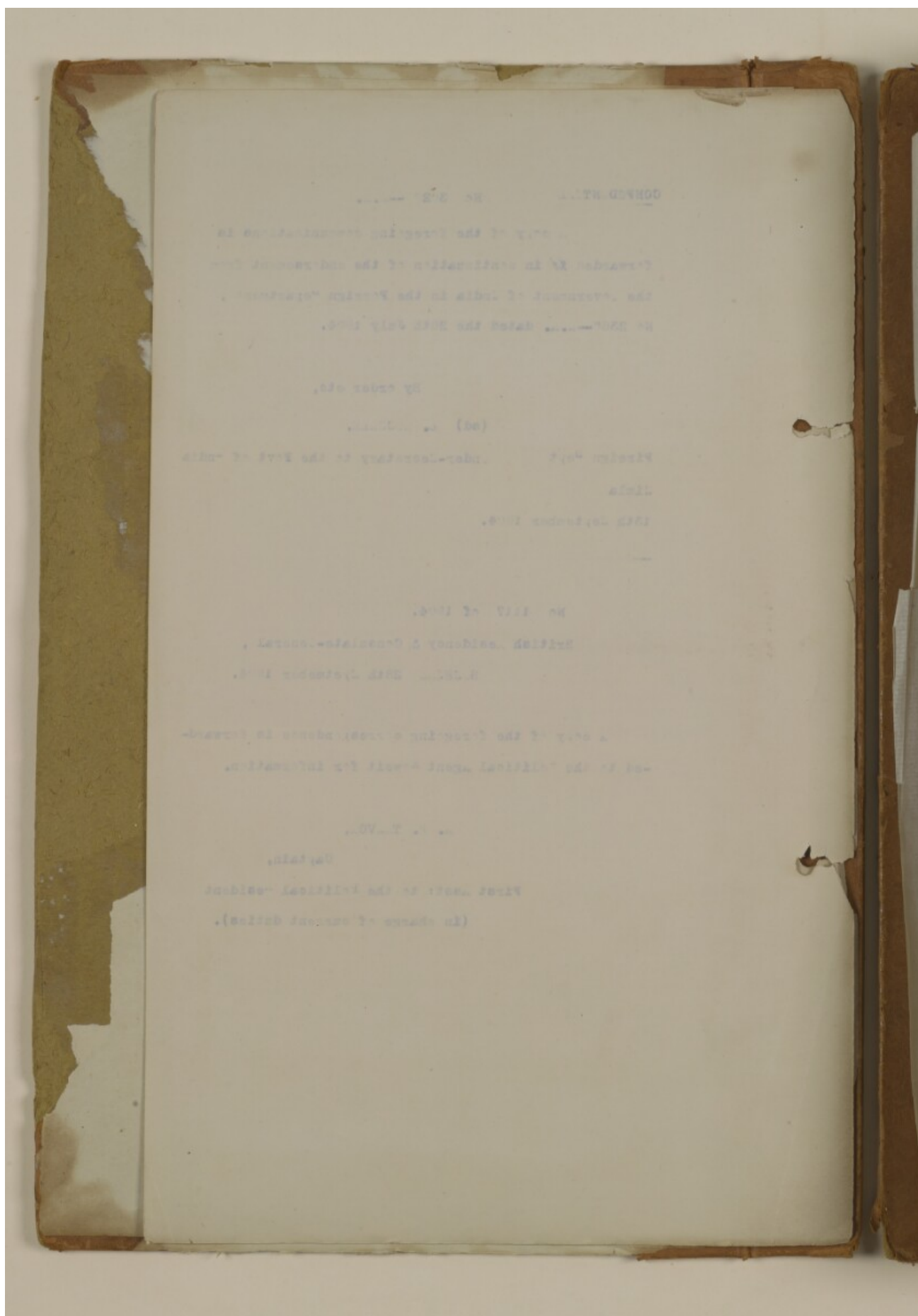
BUCHLA 28th September 1904.

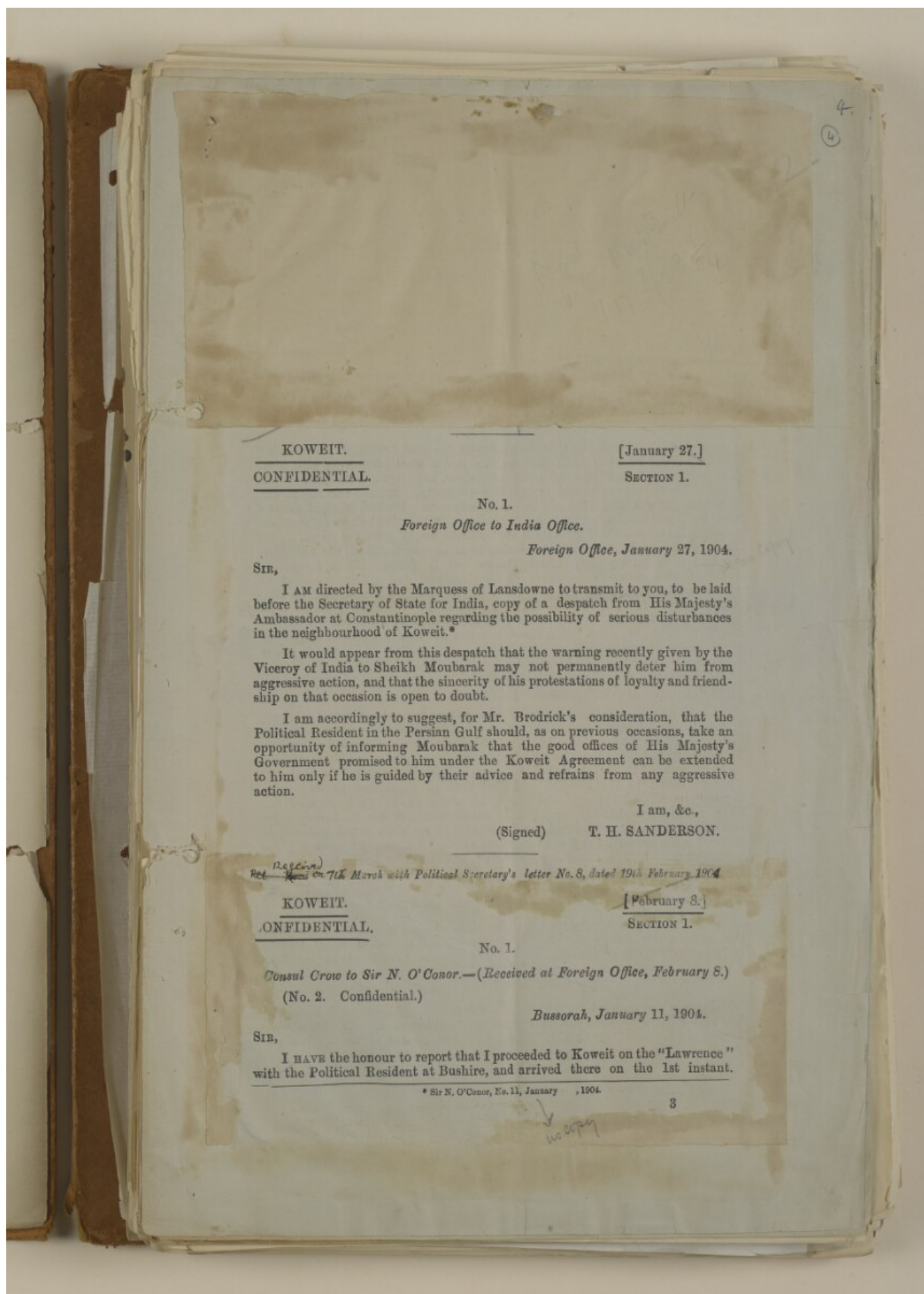
A copy of the foregoing correspondence is forwarded to the Political Agent Koweit for information.

A. P. TRAVO.

Captain,

First Asst: to the Political Resident
(in charge of current duties).





KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[January 27.]
SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, January 27, 1904.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople regarding the possibility of serious disturbances in the neighbourhood of Koweit.*

It would appear from this despatch that the warning recently given by the Viceroy of India to Sheikh Moubarak may not permanently deter him from aggressive action, and that the sincerity of his protestations of loyalty and friendship on that occasion is open to doubt.

I am accordingly to suggest, for Mr. Brodrick's consideration, that the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf should, as on previous occasions, take an opportunity of informing Moubarak that the good offices of His Majesty's Government promised to him under the Koweit Agreement can be extended to him only if he is guided by their advice and refrains from any aggressive action.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

Received
Ret. on 7th March with Political Secretary's letter No. 8, dated 19th February 1904

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[February 8.]
SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, February 8.)
(No. 2. Confidential.)

Bussorah, January 11, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I proceeded to Koweit on the "Lawrence" with the Political Resident at Bushire, and arrived there on the 1st instant.

* Sir N. O'Connor, No. 11, January, 1904.

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The "Lawrence" anchored about two miles from the town. We approached the shore in the launch until we grounded, and then landed in a small boat and clambered up the steep side of one of the stone breakwaters facing the Sheikh's house. Moubarak, accompanied by the members of his household, met us on the foreshore. The Sheikh occupies a large two-storeyed stone building, built on the seashore, with a row of open stables in front of it. Saddle horses were awaiting us, and the Sheikh conducted us to his "Diwaniye" or reception room on the roof of the house, furnished in European fashion with the portraits of Their Majesties the King and Queen, and that of Her Majesty the late Queen, on the walls. The Sheikh was attended by his Secretary. He is over 60, but looks much younger. He wore Arab dress—the long print overall reaching to his feet, the brown "aba" or cloak and a cotton handkerchief over his head, fastened by the "ugal" or camel's hair band wrapped round it. He carries himself well, and has a pleasant, intelligent face, and is reserved and discreet in his remarks. After some conversation we visited the town and bazaars with him, and then returned to the ship.

Moubarak informed us that Sadun Pasha was near Behara, a place in his territory about 36 miles from Koweit. He had a small following with him. The Sheikh deprecated his turbulent behaviour, and thought no good could come of his violent opposition to Turkish authority. Sadun's sole object was plunder. He was misguided and had little influence. He had solicited protection, but Moubarak stated that he had been unable to give him a satisfactory answer. He considered it unlikely that the Turks would press the pursuit. He hinted that Seyyid Talib Pasha was trying to make capital out of the agitation by acting as intermediary between Sadun and the Turks. He expressed his contempt for Turkish methods of pacification and their inability to preserve order among the Arabs. The Vali, he said, had not written to him about Sadun. In reply to inquiries in regard to the Wahabee movement, he confirmed my information that Abdul Aziz ibn Saoud had captured Zalfee (36 hours from Boreyda), and added that the latter was now practically master of Nejd, and would make short work of Kassim and Aneyza. The Amir's power was completely broken, and his position irretrievable. There was great scarcity in Nejd owing to the failure of the harvest. Caravans between Koweit and the interior, principally Ateyba, were on the increase.

Moubarak, though generally cautious and discreet in expressing his opinions, seemed inclined to exaggerate the extent of the Wahabee successes and the decadence of the Amir's authority. The wish is no doubt father to the thought. It is difficult to believe that the latter's position is as hopeless as he would lead us to suppose. The Sheikh stated that arms are freely imported from the El Katr peninsula to the interior, and that Turkish opposition to the traffic is purely nominal. He expressed his gratification at the settlement of the dispute with his nephews in regard to the Sabah family estates in Turkey. He regarded the matter as finished, and anticipated no hitch in the process of measuring the properties and assessing their value. I informed him that I was willing to assist him in smoothing over any difficulties which might arise in executing the Agreement, and assured him that he might rely on the good offices of the Consulate at Bussorah in the matter. The Sheikh complained of no further interference with the cultivation of his gardens at Fao.

By the Agreement concluded between him and his nephews last September, the Sheikh's own estates in Turkish territory now consist of 3,000 jereeb (3,750 acres) of date gardens at Fao, and 300 jereeb (375 acres) at Dowasir. I am informed at Bussorah that the best date-bearing ground is worth 300l. per acre, so that much of this property must be exceedingly valuable.

From information collected by Colonel Pelly, Political Resident at Bushire in 1863, the Sabah family established themselves as rulers at Koweit in the early part of the 17th century (1613). They were the pirates of the north of the Persian Gulf and lower channels of the Shatt el Arab, and dwelt at Um Kasr, at the head of the Khor Abdullah. About the year 1613 the Bussorah authorities



attacked and expelled them. The original Sheikh came down the Khor Sohieh, between Bubian Island and the mainland, with his followers, and settled in the bay known as that of Koweit or Grane. Crossing the bay he settled on its southern shore, and there erected a small fort or "kut," of which the word Koweit is the diminutive. The term Grane or Kurn is rather applied to the shore line of the entire bay, from its resemblance to the curve formed by two horns. The Settlement was subsequently augmented by the son of the founder, who erected more buildings along the seashore as the population increased.

The town is clean and active, and the bazaars extensive. A series of breakwaters and shallow docks made of rough-cut stone blocks stretches along the foreshore, which is entirely affected to boat-building. The sailors of Koweit are in high repute. Boat-building is their sole industry. Builders were originally brought from Muscat, but the local workmen are now sufficiently skilled to work independently. Wood is imported from Malabar. The principal houses are of stone, and the population about 18,000. There is no vegetation nearer than Jehra, which lies about 15 miles away at the head of the bay. The Bedouins who flock to the town and camp on its outskirts supply the population with provisions. Sheep and goats are imported from the Persian coast and Bahrein. Horses from the interior are no longer exported from Koweit, as this trade has been deflected to Bussorah. The water obtained from wells near the town is brackish, but fever is unknown.

Colonel Pelly reported in 1863 that, though nominally tributary to Turkey, they had for some years hoisted their own flag. It was found, however, that the custom duties, levied on their exports to Bombay, were more burdensome when goods sailed under an unrecognized flag, than when they were borne in Turkish craft. Koweit, shrinking from this foreign pressure, turned to the Sultan. The suzerainty of the ports, whether old or recent, was merely nominal, the Arabs acknowledging the Turks as we do the 39 Articles, which all accept and none remember.

I have, &c,

(Signed) F. E. CROW.

Received on 14th March with Political Secretary's letter No. 9, dated 26th February 1904.

KOWEIT.

[February 20.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Acting Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Connor.—(Received at Foreign Office, February 20.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)

Basra, January 25, 1904.

Sir,

IN the course of an interview with the Vali to-day, I mentioned that I had recently visited Koweit and heard that Sadun Pasha was then near Jehra. I added that it was extremely unlikely that Sheikh Moubarak would give him any assistance or countenance his proceedings in any way. The Vali replied with some bitterness that the Sheikh's tolerating his presence at Jehra was already sufficient protection, for, as long as he remained there, Turkish troops could not touch him. He was as much out of reach at Jehra as he would be at Koweit, and quite safe from interference.

I asked his Excellency what he expected Moubarak to do in the matter, to which he replied, "He might take him and hand him over to us." I said I thought that would be rather a serious breach of the Arab laws of hospitality,



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and might lead to a general rising of all the neighbouring tribes, out of sympathy for Sadun. If his presence at Jehra meant freedom from molestation because he was on Koweit ground, it would clearly be impossible for Moubarak to so far depart from established Arab custom as to make him a prisoner and give him up. I remarked that I had heard Sadun had since quitted Jehra and gone further north, where it would doubtless be easy for them to catch him. The Vali said it was no easy matter to catch an Arab wandering in the desert, where Turkish troops could not follow him. Moreover, Seyyed Talib Pasha, acting on instructions from the Porte, had been sent to interview him and had found him at Jebel Sinam. Sadun had asked for the Imperial pardon.

His Excellency informed me that, when the trouble first began, he anticipated Sadun's departure in the direction of Koweit, and had asked the Porte for instructions as to how he should act in the event of his proceeding there. The Porte merely inquired what grounds he had for supposing he would do so, but gave him no indication as to the course he should pursue. Any attempt to corner Sadun would merely force him to return to Jehra, where they could not follow him.

It is evident that the Turks have no intention of burning their fingers by following Sadun into Koweit territory, and it is also clear, from the Vali's statements, that he considers Moubarak is conniving at his escape by allowing him to visit Jehra. The matter will probably end by a full pardon being granted to Sadun, and his settling at Sahhra, near Nasrieh, while the blame for the slaughter of the Turkish troops will be laid at the door of the Bimbashi and others, who have already paid the penalty for their imprudence with their lives. If, however, this should not be the case and Sadun returns again to Jehra, his presence there will be a standing irritation to the Turks, and may bring Koweit into undesirable prominence. Moubarak is "between the Devil and the deep sea." If he delivers up Sadun to please the Turks, he offends Arab susceptibilities seriously, and if he leaves him undisturbed at Jehra, the Turks may, with reason, grumble at Koweit's being used as an asylum by the Sultan's enemies.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) F. E. CROW.



(Received on 14th March 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 9, dated the 26th February 1904.)

India Office,

24th February 1904.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 27th January regarding the possibility of serious disturbances in the neighbourhood of Koweit, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to request that you will draw the attention of the Marquess of Lansdowne to the Viceroy's telegram of the 11th February reporting a warning addressed to the Sheikh by Colonel Kemball so recently as the beginning of January last.

It appears that on that occasion Sheikh Moubarak disclaimed sympathy with Sadun Pasha. Mr. Brodrick is, therefore, inclined to think that a further warning would be unnecessary in the absence of more certain information as to the Sheikh's complicity with Sadun Pasha.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. GODLEY,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.



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(Received on 28th March with Political Secretary's letter No. 11, dated 11th March 1904.)

Foreign Office to India Office.

March 1st, 1904. *Page 6*

SIR,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of February 24th relative to rumours of possible disturbances at Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Mr. Brodrick's opinion that, in view of the warning given to Sheikh Moubarak by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf in January last to refrain from aggressive action, no further intimation of the same kind is necessary for the present.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) T. H. SANDERSON.

(Received on 11th April with Political Secretary's letter No. 12, dated 15th March 1904.)

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of March 5th, 1904.

Foreign Office to Sir N. O'Connor.

February 24th, 1904.

No. 67.

SIR,

File X Page 5-9
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 77 of February 8th, relative to a request made by the Amir of Nejd that the Turkish Government should permit him to attack Sheikh Moubarak of Koweit.

I observe that you do not apprehend that the Turkish Government will give any encouragement to the Amir, and the information obtained by your Excellency is perhaps not of a character which would justify a special representation.

At the same time your Excellency will recollect that a distinct understanding was arrived at in October 1901, during a time of serious inter-tribal disturbances in the interior of Arabia, that if His Majesty's Government used their influence to discourage Sheikh Moubarak from aggressive measures, the Turkish Government would on their side endeavour to restrain the Amir of Nejd.

It would seem advisable therefore that you should take a suitable opportunity of reminding the Turkish Government of this understanding, and should intimate that as His Majesty's Government have recently given repeated warning to the Sheikh of Koweit against participating in any insurrectionary movement, they have a right to expect that the Turkish Government will use their best endeavours to restrain the Amir of Nejd from embarking on a course of action which might endanger the peace in those regions.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) Omitted.



Confidential!

No 2365 E.A.

7

A copy of the foregoing correspondence is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information

By order,

(Sd) V. Gabriel,

Asst Secy to the Govt of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla,

The 26th July 1904.

Telegram No 1663 E/A., dated 20th May 1904 to the Secretary of State for India, London.

Telegram dated 25th May 1904 from -ditto-

Telegram No 1748 E/A., dated 29th May 1904 to the Secy of State for India, London.

No 902 of 1904.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 16th August 1904.

A copy of the foregoing Foreign Department Endorsement No 2365-E/A., with a copy of the enclosures is forwarded to the Political Agent at Koweit for information.

*Filed
2/8/4.*

P. Z. Cox

Major,

Offg Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





Koweit

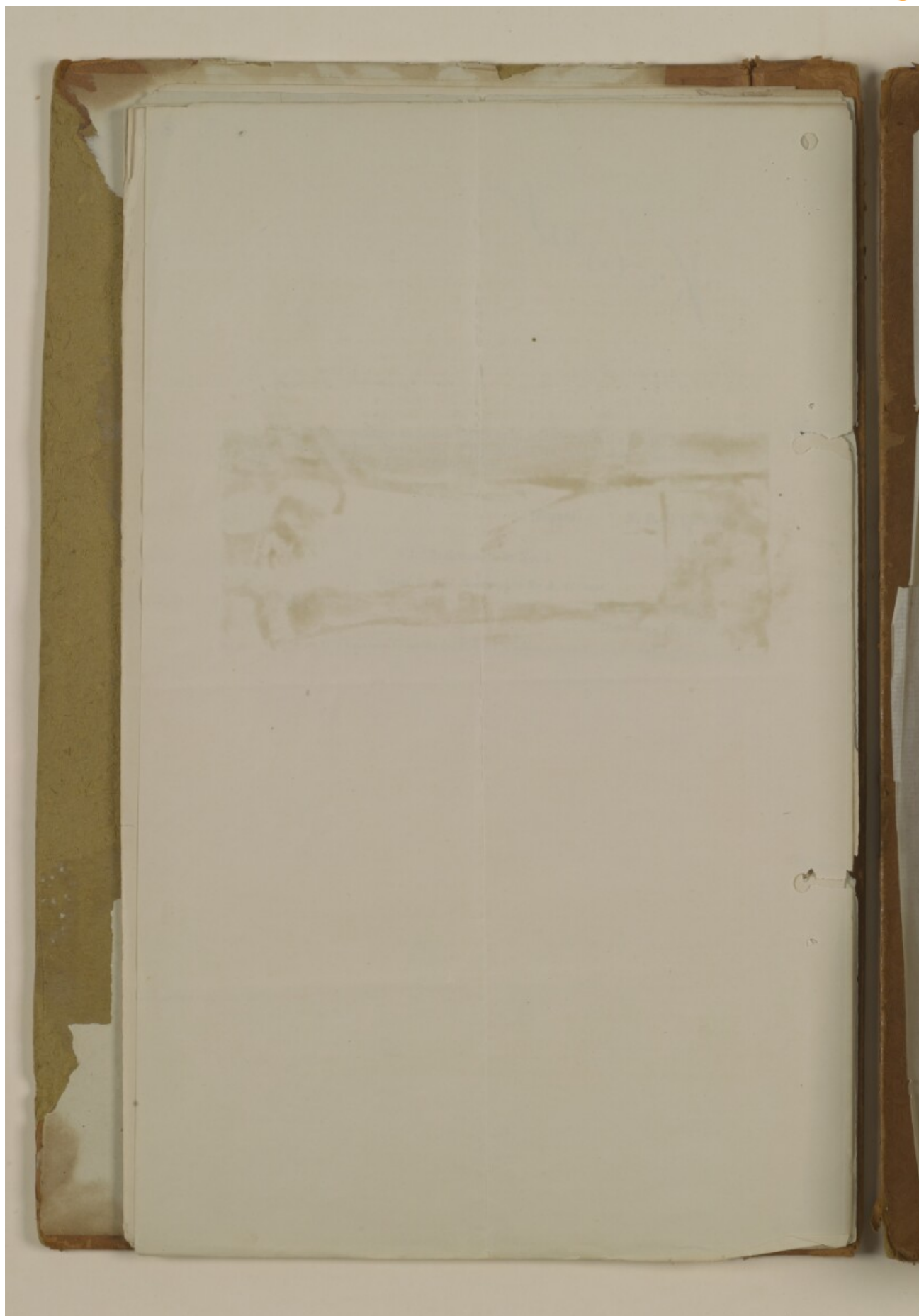
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Telegram No. 1663-E.A., dated the 20th May 1904.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

The following telegram has been received from Major Cox :—*Begins.*—I have received.....*Laurence* not being here.—*Ends.* We should be glad to know whether a representation has, as suggested in Lord Curzon's telegram, dated the 28th April 1904, been made to the Porte, and, if so, what the result is. It may become necessary to revive the proposal to post a British Resident to Koweit in order to watch events there in the event of armed intervention in this quarter being persisted in by the Turks, but we could hardly interfere so as to prevent the importation of arms for Bin Saood.





Telegram, dated the 25th May 1904.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

Please refer to your telegram dated the 20th May 1904 regarding Nejd affairs. Representations were made by Sir N. O'Connor to the Porte on your telegram of the 28th April and were renewed on hearing from the Vice-Consul at Jeddah that troops were being assembled at Medina in order to assist the Amir of Nejd. He says that these representations may perhaps make the Sultan reluctant, but that they will hardly turn him from the course which he can fairly urge is calculated to prevent internal troubles and disturbance of the *status quo*. He adds that he does not see on what grounds he can press the Turks to desist from helping the Amir, who is the party attacked without appearing as a distinct partisan of Bin Saud. He also adverts to questions of general policy, and points out that on these grounds there are objections against preventing the Turks from assisting the Amir against Bin Saud whose apparent object is to re-establish the Wahabi dynasty throughout Central Arabia, result of which might in the near future be fraught with serious consequences and might imperil our authority at Koweit where in the existing condition of affairs our influence is yearly growing stronger. Sir N. O'Connor's idea is that we should confine ourselves for the present to maintaining intact territory of Koweit and awaiting developments, but that if the Turks persist, as he anticipates, in assisting the Amir, it might be expedient to reconsider the question of appointing a Resident at Koweit. Please let me have your views on the above questions. In view of our declared policy of prohibiting the traffic in arms, how would you propose to keep from interfering with the importation of arms for Bin Saud?

Telegram No. 1748-E.A., dated the 29th May 1904.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla,
To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Please see your telegram of the 25th May 1904. Our position in regard to the affairs of Nejd is explained in our Secret Despatch No. 69 of 24th March 1904. Representations might be made by Sir N. O'Connor to the effect that so long as the Turks refrained from interference in Nejd affairs, we also abstained from intervention; that we have no desire to assist Bin Saud directly or indirectly; but that our interests in Eastern Arabia are such that we cannot view with indifference intervention on behalf of one of the parties contending for supremacy in Nejd which must affect the tribes with which we have relations; that the relative rights of the two contending parties being so equal that the better course would be to leave both sides alone, both in the interests of peace and with a view to the avoidance of internal troubles. It might further be pointed out that the Turks were unable in 1902 to prevent filibustering expedition against Koweit starting from Turkish territory, and that the present support of Bin Rashid may strengthen him beyond Turkish powers of control, and produce situation which, having regard to our relations with Mubarak, we could not view with indifference. As to Sir N. O'Connor's view of the general political aspect of the situation, our opinion is as follows: the growth of our influence with Sheikh Mubarak has been concurrent with the success of his friend, Bin Saud, and our prestige at Koweit must suffer materially if, through our active intervention to prevent Mubarak assisting Bin Saud, and to prevent importation of arms, we permit Turkish influence to determine supremacy of the Turkish nominee against Bin Saud, which on analogy of the case of El Hassa of 1871 would probably mean absorption of Nejd by the Turks. The destruction of Mubarak's influence and a possible attack from a direction which has not hitherto been contemplated on Koweit territory, the limits of which towards the interior are not defined, would naturally result from Turkish supremacy in Nejd.



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We might thus be forced again to assist Mubarak actively against the Turks. The re-establishment of the Wahabi dynasty, which is now rather territorial than fanatical, would, in our opinion, be open to less objection than this. We cannot agree therefore that our authority at Koweit would be imperilled by the success of Bin Saud, or that we can preserve Koweit territory intact better than by preventing Turkish intervention on behalf of Bin Rashid. With reference to my telegram, dated the 20th May 1904, we quite agree as to posting a Political Agent at Koweit and will immediately select one if you approve. We think it not improbable that such action might have a wholesome effect upon Turkish attitude of mind.

Up to the present no arrangements have been made with the Porte for combined suppression of traffic in the importation of arms which is briskly proceeding. It is not therefore a case of authorising Mubarak to import arms or even of relaxing existing measures for the prevention of the traffic, but of merely allowing matters to remain as they are. We can, if the Turks protest, offer to do our best to prevent trade on the understanding that they will refrain from interfering in Nejd affairs, and co-operate with us in the manner suggested in our Despatch dated the 31st March 1903. An admission of our supremacy in Koweit that would be useful to us hereafter would result from such a protest.



(Confidential.)

No. 2918 E.-A.

FROM

THE UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

in the Foreign Department,

To

MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E.,
POLITICAL RESIDENT IN THE
PERSIAN GULF.

Dated Simla, the 7th September 1904.

SIR,

I am directed to address you regarding the recently-created appointment of Political Agent at Koweit.

2. As notified in Foreign Department telegram No. 2457, dated the 3rd August 1904, Captain Knox will take up the appointment, but will so act as not to attract unnecessary attention. His first object should be to cultivate and maintain close and friendly relations with Sheikh Mubarak and the principal personages in Koweit. The interests of British trade and traders at Koweit and in the adjacent tracts of Arabia should be safeguarded, and a vigilant watch kept over the proceedings of the Turks on the boundaries of Koweit territories. Matters tending to show an intention, on the part of the Turks or any other Power, to interfere with, or disturb, the existing *status quo* or anything which would lead to a belief that any other Powers have designs on, or in connection with, possible harbours within or without Koweit territory should at once be reported. Special regard in this respect should be paid to Khor Abdulla and the waters round Bubiyan Island and Um Kasr, but Captain Knox should be careful not to display undue apprehension or uneasiness on this point, or, in default of definite instructions, to interfere actively in matters affecting these places.

3. Any attempt on the part of the Turks, or others acting from Turkish territory, to encroach on or beyond the limits of Hejeje and Subbieh should be forthwith reported. Captain Knox should, however, endeavour to ascertain if these places really represent the bounds of Shiekh Mubarak's effective occupation at present.

4. He should further endeavour to secure early and accurate information regarding the struggle between the Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saud families for the supremacy of Nejd. His Majesty's Government have instructed Sir Nicolas O'Connor to inform the Turkish Government that, as repeated warnings have been given to the Sheikh of Koweit against participating in any insurrectionary movement, they have a right to expect that the Porte will use their best endeavours to restrain the Amir of Nejd from embarking on a course of action which might endanger the peace in those regions, and the Ambassador has been further requested to express the hope, in regard to the assistance given to Ibn Rashid, that the Turkish Government will avoid taking any action which might still further add to the disturbed condition of this part of Arabia, the tranquillity of which is a matter of interest to His Majesty's Government as well as to that of the Sultan.



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In connection with this question I am to forward, for your information, a copy of the marginally noted correspondence regarding proposals to obtain more reliable information regarding the situation in the interior of Arabia.

5. The Government of India also desire to be furnished with information regarding the trade in arms with Koweit, and how far, if at all, arms are being especially imported through Koweit for Ibn Saud. Pending further instructions, the Political Agent should neither authorise nor forbid Sheikh Mubarak to continue the trade which already exists.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

C. L. S. RUSSELL,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

*In file 3
page 50 only*

No. 1116 of 1904.

*British Residency & Consulate General
Basrah 28th September 1904.*

*Copy of the foregoing correspondence with
Copy of Enclosures is forwarded to the
Political Agent Koweit for information
and guidance & with a request that
he will be good enough to furnish the informⁿ
asked for in due course.*

*Approved Captain
First Assistant to the Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf
in Charge current duties*

*12-8
27/9*



British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th November 1904.

My dear Knox, *no copy*

Your demi official of 30th ultimo about your not having been able to trace Foreign Department Endorsement No 2365 E/A., dated 26th July 1904. I find from the file that the endorsement was duly sent to you with this office No 902 dated 16th August last. The enclosures to Foreign Department endorsement are:-

page 8

page 8

To

Captain S. G. Knox,

Political Agent,

Koweit.



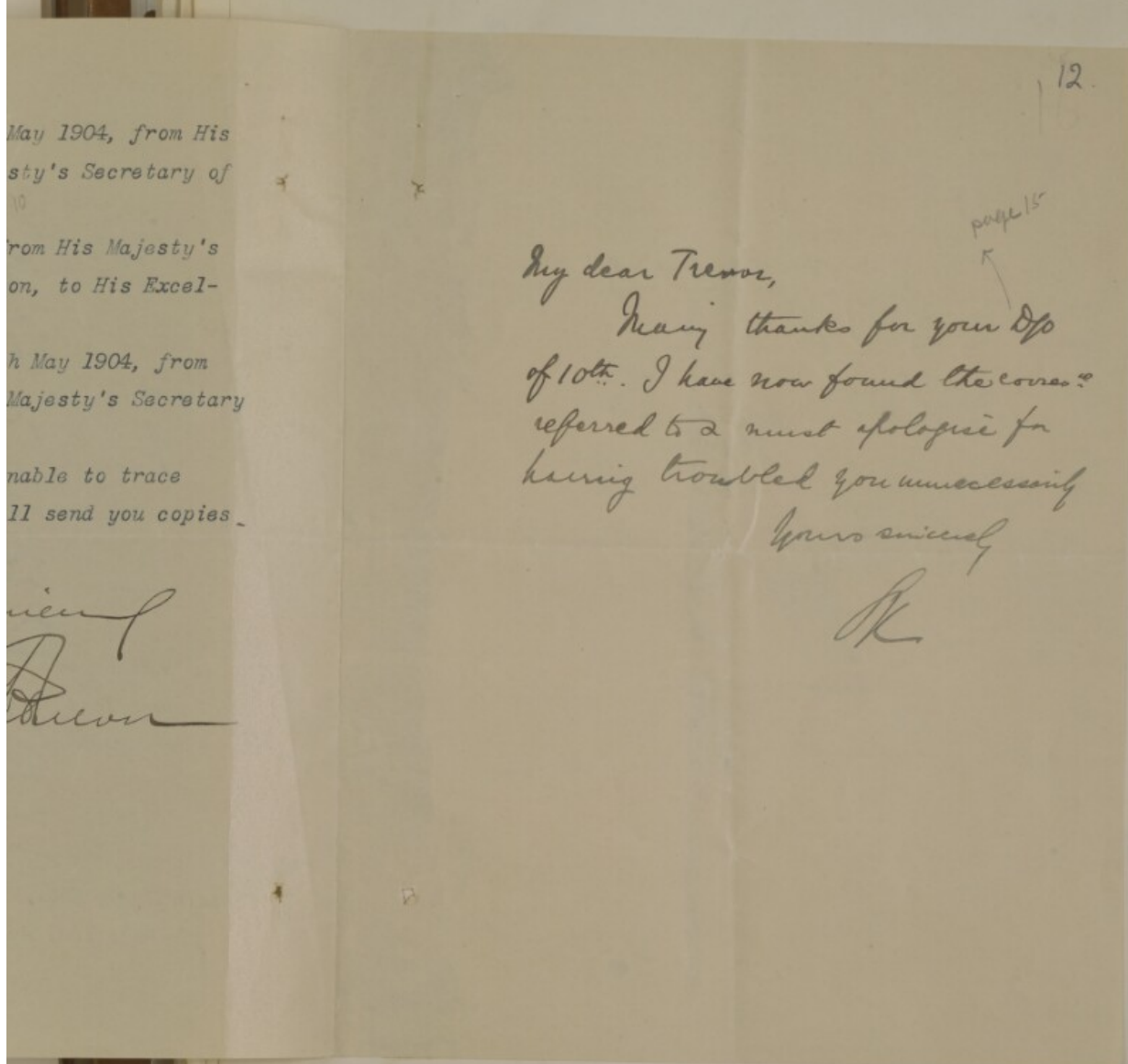
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page 9
Telegram No 1663 E/A., dated 20th May 1904, from His Excellency the Viceroy to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London. ^{page 10}

Telegram dated 25th May 1904, from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London, to His Excellency the Viceroy. ^{page 10}

Telegram No 1748 E/A., dated 29th May 1904, from His Excellency the Viceroy to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

If you find that you are still unable to trace these, please let me know and I will send you copies.

Yrs sincerely
H. C. C.



May 1904, from His
sty's Secretary of

rom His Majesty's
on, to His Excel-

h May 1904, from
Majesty's Secretary

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ll send you copies.

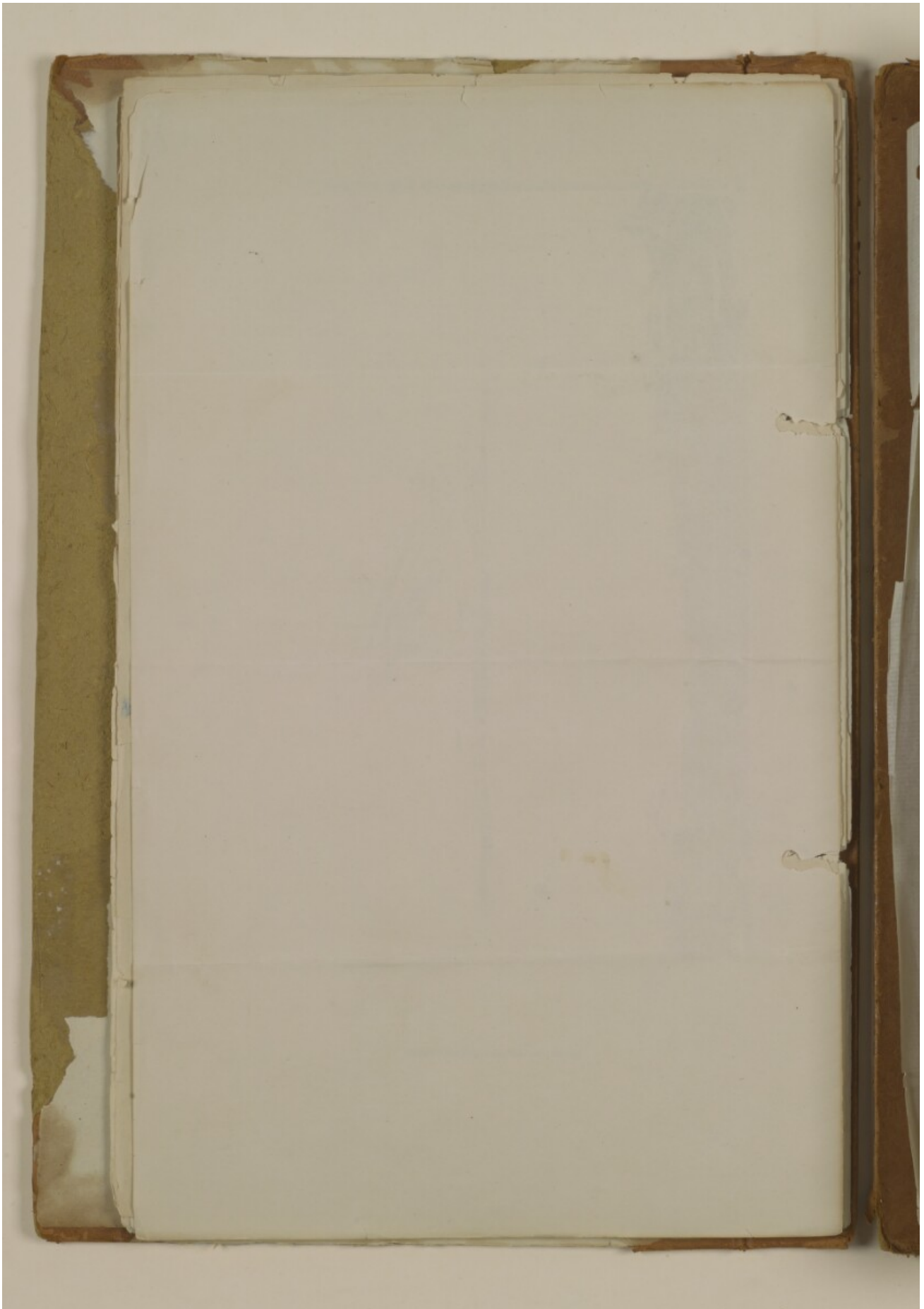
signed
Trevor

My dear Trevor,

Many thanks for your Dp
of 10th. I have now found the cover
referred to & must apologise for
having troubled you unnecessarily

Yours sincerely

R





(13)

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From Foreign Office

To Resident.

(1) Telegram with telegram

no copy

Shila 21.11.04.

P. no. 3965-EB. kindly refer to our telegram no. 2457 EA, dated 3rd August last, regarding Koweit. Secy of State has noted as follows :- begins :-

Turkish Govt has made following complaints against Kox :-

(1) That he has a harem with him.

(2) That he has engaged secretary named Abdulla.

(3) That he enters into relations with natives

(4) That he interferes in administration

(5) That he has hoisted English flag over his residence.

Please report facts. My telegram of the 28th July last directed that Kox should proceed to Koweit in such a manner as not to attract unnecessary attention. End.

no copy

Please report early.

[Signature]
22.11.04



Tel. 2. on leaf forwarded under cover of following
Dfo. Df. Bureauc 22/11/4.

My dear Knox,

I send herewith a purport of a tel. 2.
just recd. from G. of D. regd. the recent Turkish
complaint against you (referred to by Reuters).
If Major Cox turns up in the Laureine, you
might show him this.

I suppose to reply to following effect:—

- (1) that you have no reprogs
- (2) that you have two clerks & one munshi as
sanctioned by Govt
- (3) that you don't interfere in administration
- (4) that your relations with natives are of a
social nature.
- (5) that an accredited agent of Govt should
surely fly a flag.

& finally to respectfully point out that
to ask an accredited agent of Govt (whose
every movement is watched) not to attract
attention is to ask him to achieve the impossible.

I write Dfo above to save a mail.

Yrs truly

(sd) A.T. Trevor



Private Koweit 14.
23/11/4. (14)
~~14.~~

page 18
My dear Trevor,
Many thanks for your
Dps of the 22nd re Govt.
telegram.

If you feel inclined
to add anything, you
might say that the septs
are obviously my native
servants, a body servant,
Cook, kit, eye & sweeper
Ismail chuprassi. The
other two I think can only
be the two Arabs I took on
at chuprassiat first. They
might be Khalil & his servant.

They have got my
Munshi's name right.
He is Abdulla, a Koweitee.

It was most unfortunate
that my letters did not
reach in time to stop
Gaskin. The Sheikh is



Very polite & friendly but
he is genuinely alarmed as
to the effect of our proceedings
on the Turks. He tells me
that Bussorah is humming
like a swarm of bees over
our proceedings about us.

For goodness' sake,
don't send any body else
to Koweit without full
& due warning & if possible
wait for a reply.

I am keeping Beveridge
though I was in two minds
to send him away at once.

I shall employ him ^{estimating for} ~~conspicuously~~
over some petty alterations
in my own house & as regards
the new house must tell
him to avoid all measure-
ments & not to attract
any attention at all. He
will stroll out to the site &
have a look at it but he
must make his estimates at
his office desk.



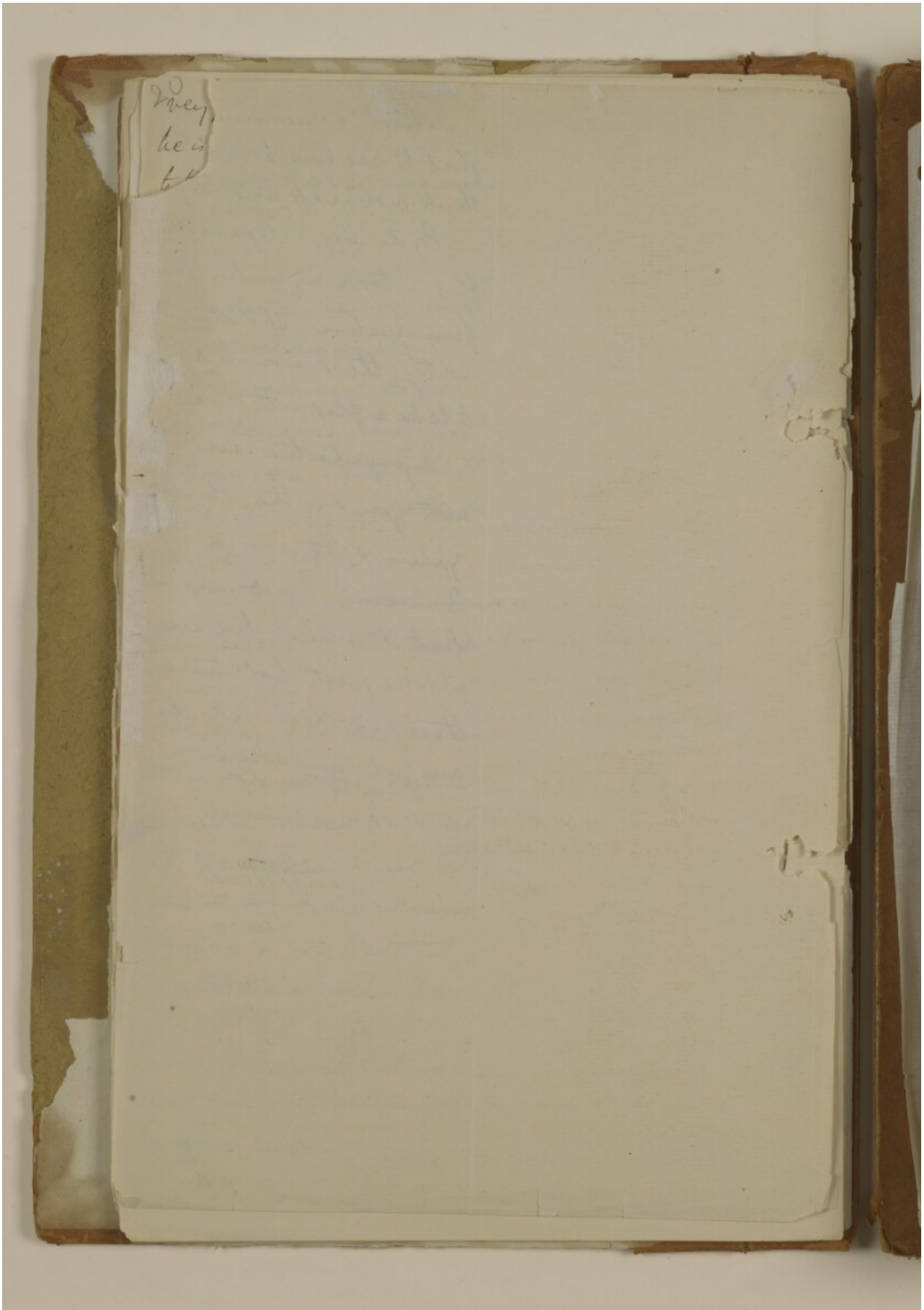
I shall be ⁽¹⁵⁾uncommon
glad to see Cox here.
think Moobarak will be

By the way, as regards the
flag, I took my instructions
from Bushna. If I remember
rightly, the major told me
to take a flag with me.

My sympathies are
with you over the whirl of
spheres & the row in
Bahrein. I can imagine
what it is like. We are
in for a pretty hot time
there next few weeks if I
am not mistaken.

Long to London
Yours sincerely

S. M. M.





From the P.Q. (16) 16.

Koweit

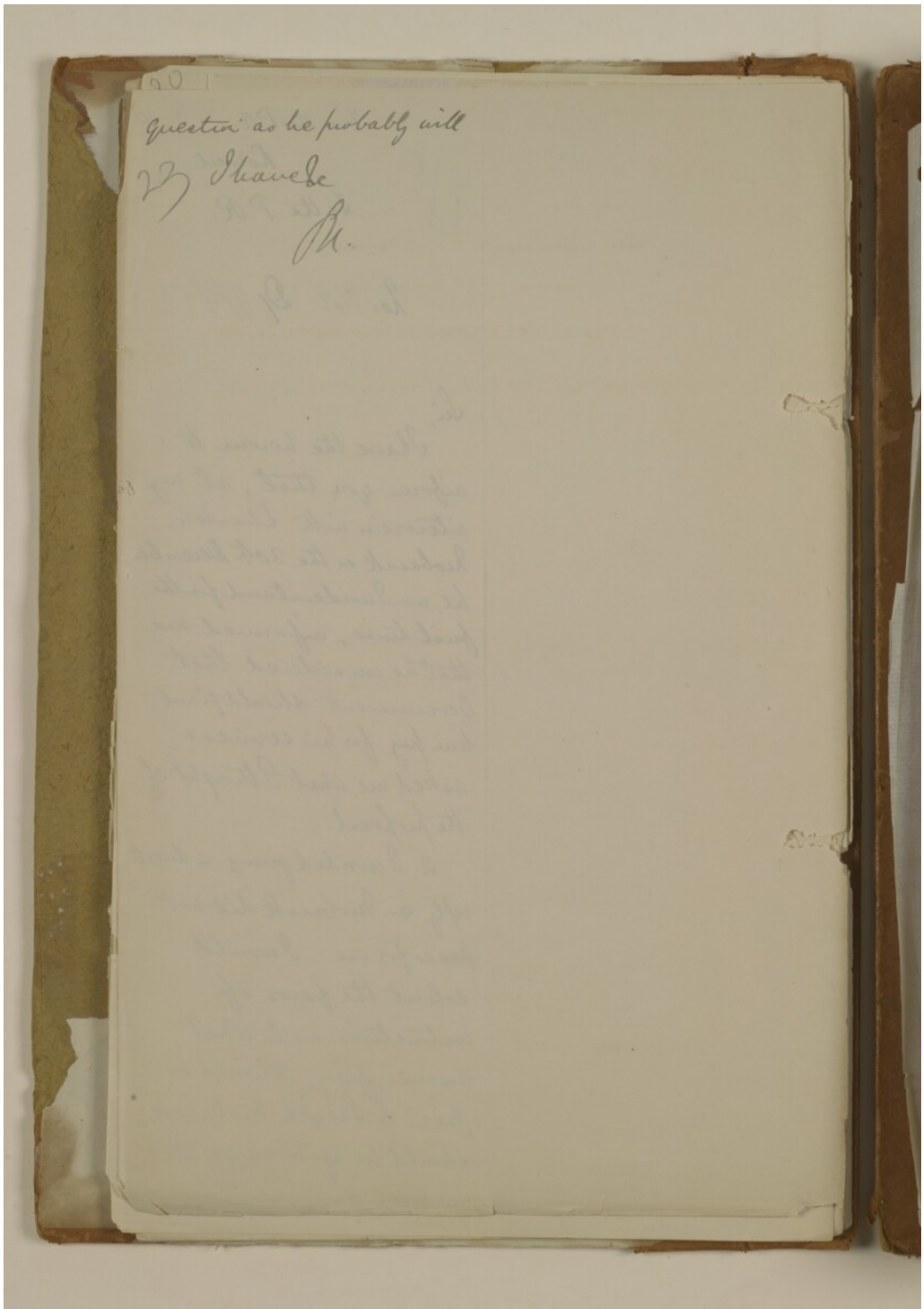
To the P.R.

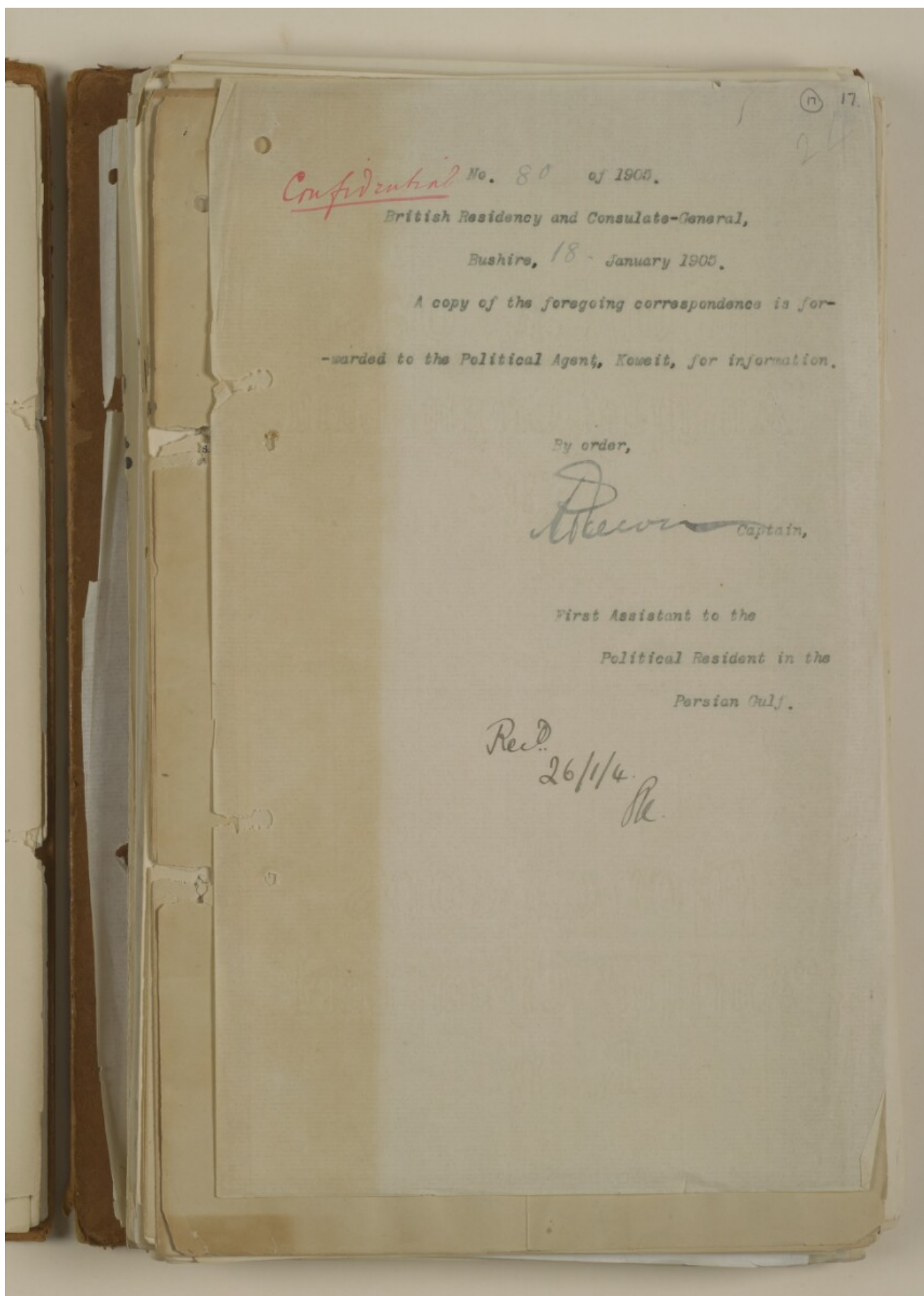
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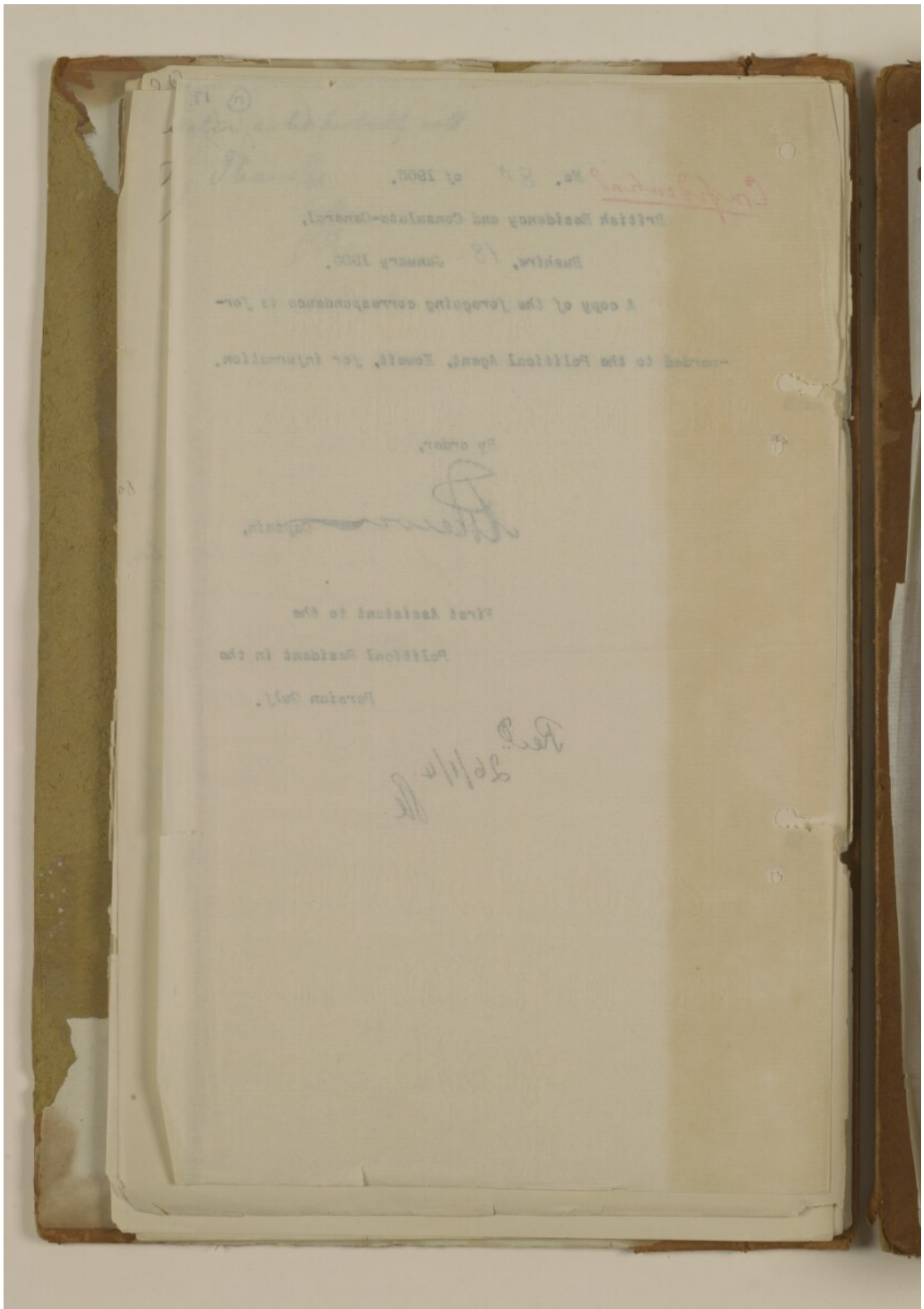
Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, at my interview with Sheikh Mobarak on the 30th December, he, as I understood for the first time, informed me that he considered that Government should grant him pay for his services & asked me what I thought of the proposal.

2. I avoided giving a direct reply & Mobarak did not press for one. I would solicit the favor of instructions as to what answer, if any, should be given to Sheikh Mobarak should he again raise the











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Telegram, dated the 26th (received 27th) November 1904.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,
To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

Please refer to your telegram of the 19th November regarding Koweit affairs. His Majesty's Government adhere to the view expressed in my telegram of the 21st November as to the inexpediency of treating the deputation of Captain Knox as a permanent appointment; but, having regard to the recent conduct of the Turkish Government as to the Aden trade and the occupation of the island of Babiyan, Captain Knox may remain at Koweit for the present. After the elapse of a reasonable interval he should be withdrawn, but instructions might be given to him to inform the Sheikh before leaving that he will repeat his visits and that the date of his return will depend on the course of events. He might add that the Sheikh should address the Resident, Bushire, if events should occur or communications be made tending to affect the position of the Sheikh in regard to Turkey or any Foreign Power during the absence of the Agent from Koweit. Please consider what will be the most convenient date for the withdrawal of Captain Knox.

India Office, London,
11th November 1904.

Secret.

No. 54.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of
India in Council.

My Lord,

I forward herewith, for the information of Your Excellency's Govern-

ment, a copy of the correspondence *
noted in the margin as to the posting of a
Political Agent to Koweit, and would
invite your attention to the letter from
the Foreign Office of the 20th October
last.
2. I agree in the view expressed by
Lord Lansdowne as to the inexpediency
of regarding the present deputation of
Captain Knox to Koweit as a permanent
appointment, and as to the statement to be made to the Turkish Government in
reply to the inquiry by the Turkish Ambassador reported in Lord
Lansdowne's Despatch to Mr. Townley of the 20th ultimo, No. 365, viz., that
no permanent appointment has been made by His Majesty's Government which

* To Foreign Office, dated 13th August 1903.
From Foreign Office, dated 13th August 1903.
From Foreign Office, dated 3rd September
1903, and enclosure.
From Foreign Office, dated 2nd January 1904,
and enclosure.
To Foreign Office, dated 2nd June 1904.
From Foreign Office, dated 21st June 1904,
and enclosure.
From Foreign Office, dated 20th October 1904,
and enclosure.
Enclosure in Foreign Office letter of 5th
November 1904.

below page 32



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could be regarded as a disturbance of the *status quo* in those regions, but that, while the mission of Captain Knox is a temporary one, His Majesty's Government must reserve to themselves the right to depute an officer to visit Koweit from time to time, at their uncontrolled discretion as to time and length of stay, in order to report upon the state of affairs at that place, and to ensure the continuance of the *modus vivendi* already arrived at. I request, therefore, that you will consider the question of the date to be fixed for the temporary withdrawal of Captain Knox, and inform me of your views on the point.

3. As regards the instructions contained in your Foreign Department letter No. 2918-E.A., dated 7th September 1904, to Major Cox, for the guidance of the Political Agent at Koweit, I observe that it is stated that that officer should endeavour to secure early and accurate information regarding the struggle for the supremacy of Nejd; and that Major Cox has been furnished with copies of my telegram of the 8th February last, and of your Secret letter of the 26th March last, No. 69. I request that Major Cox's attention may be specially called to my Secret Despatch of the 29th April last, No. 24, with its enclosures, in which I directed that, before the proposal of sending any officer to Riyadh on a mission of enquiry was further considered, I might be informed of the methods by which it was proposed to conduct any investigation into the affairs of Nejd.

4. The surveys in the vicinity of Koweit, proposed in your telegram of the 19th August, and referred to in the first paragraph of the Foreign Office letter above quoted, were sanctioned in my telegram of the 1st November.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,
ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

Enclosure No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.

India Office,
13th August 1903.

SIR,

With reference to Sir N. O'Connor's telegram No. 112, of the 18th ultimo, and to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, forwarding a copy of a telegram to the Viceroy on the subject of the expediency of appointing a British Resident to Koweit, I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to inclose, for Lord Lansdowne's information, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 31st July 1903, reporting the views of the Resident in the Persian Gulf and of the Government of India upon the proposal.

As to the Viceroy's reference to the proposal to place Koweit under the charge of the Consul at Mohammerah, it appears to Lord George Hamilton that, apart from the reasons which led to the recent decision to retain Mr. McDouall in that post, there are objections to entrusting our relations with the Sheikh of Koweit to a Consular officer residing in Persian territory. Moreover, His Lordship is unable to understand in what respect such an arrangement would be preferable to that which at present exists, by which Koweit is under the general superintendence of the Consul-General at Bushire, who is also Political Resident for the whole of the Persian Gulf, and who has a steam ship at his disposal for the purpose of visiting the ports under his charge when it is necessary to do so.

With regard to the suggested appointment of a British officer to reside in Koweit, it appears to Lord George Hamilton that such a step would scarcely be in harmony with the admissions which have repeatedly been made by His Majesty's Government that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire. This point however is one pre-eminently for the Foreign Office to consider, and, apart from this, His Lordship is inclined to attach more weight to the reasons given

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by the Viceroy in favour of the appointment than to those urged against it by Colonel Kemball. As an alternative he would suggest that it will be sufficient for the present to instruct the Consul-General at Bushire to depute an officer to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such period as may be desirable. Business connected with the Sheikh's relations with Turkish officials at Basrah would, as at present, be conducted through His Majesty's Consul at Basrah.

I am, etc.,
A. GODLEY.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

Enclosure No. 2.
Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
13th August 1903.

SIR,

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, forwarding copy of a telegram from the Viceroy of India, in which he advocates the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit, proposed by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, unless the alternative proposal of the Government of India be accepted, that an officer of the Indian Service should be appointed Consul at Mohammerah, who should also have Koweit under his superintendence and be provided with a vessel for the purpose of making frequent visits to that place.

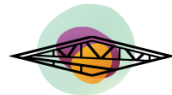
As the Secretary of State for India is aware, Lord Lansdowne is of opinion that the Consul at Mohammerah should devote his attention to the very important questions of trade and roads in that locality and the surrounding districts. It appears to Lord Lansdowne to be undesirable that he should be taken away from these duties for the purpose of dealing with an entirely different class of questions connected with Turkish Arabia. His Lordship is unable to see that there is any force in the argument advanced by the Viceroy that visits to Koweit by His Majesty's Consul at Basrah would strengthen and recognise the connection between that vilayet and Koweit. The Consul is at the present moment the necessary intermediary between the Sheikh and the Vali in the many questions which arise as to the Sheikh's property, and it might equally be argued that visits by His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire to Bahrein indicate a connection between the latter island and Persia.

Lord Lansdowne does not, however, wish to press the proposal, suggested originally by the Secretary of State for India, that the British Consul at Basrah should be placed in regular superintendence over Koweit.

The present system under which His Majesty's Consul-General at Bushire, or one of his officers, is the ordinary means of communicating with the Sheikh has, on the whole, worked well. On the other hand, the appointment of a British officer to reside at Koweit permanently could scarcely be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have hitherto laid so much stress in these discussions with the Porte, and Lord Lansdowne would be averse to such a measure unless the necessity for it is clearly apparent. If it should be considered expedient to resort to it, it would probably be best that the officer selected should at first visit Koweit temporarily from Bushire, and repeat his visits at intervals until his residence became practically permanent.

I am, etc.,
T. H. SANDERSON.

The Under-Secretary of State
for India.



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Enclosure No. 3.
Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
3rd September 1903.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of 13th August, I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copies of Despatches relating to the proposed appointment of a Resident at Koweit.

I am, etc.,
CHARLES HARDINGE.

The Under-Secretary of State
for India.

Annex 1.

SIR N. O'CONNOR to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

No. 459. (Secret.)

Therapia,

10th August 1903.

MY LORD,

With reference to the Secret telegram from the Government of India to Lord George Hamilton of the 31st July last, I beg to say that I entirely disagree with Major Kemball's theory that while affording the Sheikh of Koweit naval protection as against the Ottoman Government, we are under no obligation to interfere with any aggressive or hostile proceedings which he may take against a tributary of Turkey such as the Amir of Nejd. As a matter of fact the Porte have on more than one occasion asked that the influence of His Majesty's Government may be used to prevent the Sheikh from marauding or attacking his neighbours. The immunity from Turkish aggression which His Majesty's Government has desired to secure to him seems to me to carry with it the responsibility of preventing him, as far as lies in our power, from undertaking offensive operations against chieftains or tribes assumed to be under the suzerainty of Turkey.

The arguments in favour of the appointment of a Resident at Koweit are so clearly set forth in the Viceroy's telegram that I feel there is no necessity to make further remarks, except to express the hope that the proposal may be favourably entertained by His Majesty's Government.

I have, etc.,
N. R. O'CONNOR.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
etc., etc., etc.

Annex 2.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to SIR N. O'CONNOR.

No. 234. (Secret.)

Foreign Office,

20th August 1903.

SIR,

I have received Your Excellency's Despatch No. 459 (Secret) of the 10th instant, advocating the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.

I have already been in communication with the Secretary of State for India in regard to the questions raised in the telegram from the Government of India of the 31st July, to which Your Excellency refers, and I transmit, for your information, copies of the correspondence * which has passed on the subject.

Your Excellency will observe that both Lord G. Hamilton and myself have, after careful consideration, arrived at the conclusion that, notwithstanding the various arguments which have been urged in favour of the proposal

* From India Office, dated 13th August 1903.
To ditto, dated 13th August 1903.

against it by
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ith Turkish
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, etc.,
DLEY.

gn Office,
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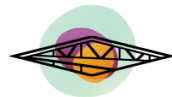
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DERSON.



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to appoint a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, such a course would scarcely be in harmony with the admission which has repeatedly been made by His Majesty's Government that Koweit is within the Turkish Empire, and could, indeed, hardly be considered otherwise than as a departure from the *status quo*, on the maintenance of which His Majesty's Government have laid so much stress in their previous discussions on the subject.

I concur in Your Excellency's opinion that His Majesty's Government may not infrequently find themselves called upon to exercise their influence in restraining the Sheikh from attacking his Arab neighbours, as well as in protecting him from aggression at the hands of the Turkish Government. But that influence has upon more than one occasion been so exercised under existing conditions, and a perusal of the printed confidential correspondence during the months of September and October 1901 in particular shows that the mediation of the Political Resident and of British Naval officers in the Persian Gulf was successfully employed at a time of serious inter-tribal disturbance, and that it was received by the Turkish Government with satisfaction.

The conclusion of the hostilities then in progress between the Sheikh of Koweit and the Amir of Nejd was followed by an amicable understanding with the Turkish Government, recorded in my note to Anthopoulos Pasha of the 11th September 1901, which has since that date formed the basis of the relations between the two Governments, and the adoption of the present proposal might seriously impair its successful continuance.

His Majesty's Government are, therefore, of opinion that it will be best, for the present at least, to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, and that it will be sufficient that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. For the reasons stated in the correspondence inclosed in this despatch they are also of opinion that the attention of His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah will be more profitably directed to the very important questions in that locality, and they consider that business connected with the relations of the Sheikh with Turkish officials at Basrah should be conducted as heretofore through His Majesty's Consul at that place.

I am, etc.,
LANSDOWNE.

The Right Hon'ble Sir N. O'Connor, G.C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.

Enclosure No. 4.
Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
2nd January 1904.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for India, and is directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, further sections of confidential correspondence.

It is requested that the attention of the Secretary of State may be specially directed to Sir N. O'Connor's despatch No. 674 (Secret) of 16th October 1903.

Annex.
SIR N. O'CONNOR to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

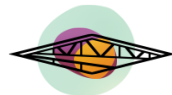
Therapia,

No. 674. (Secret).

16th October 1903.

My LORD,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 234 (Secret) of the 20th August, respecting the appointment of a British Resident at Koweit.



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In view of the desire of His Majesty's Government to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, I think that the necessities of the case will be met by their decision that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there for such time as may be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent. But I venture at the same time to urge the importance of this understanding being carried out.

I have, etc.,
N. R. O'CONOR.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
etc., etc., etc.

Enclosure No. 5.

India Office to Foreign Office.

India Office,
2nd June 1904.

SIR,

With reference to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 29th May * as to the affairs of Nejd, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to suggest, for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that the reasons which the Government of India propose should be urged on the Turkish Government in order to restrain them from supporting Ibn Rashid, should be explained to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with a view to further representations to the Porte should Lord Lansdowne approve of this course. Having regard, however, to the views expressed in Sir N. O'Connor's telegram of the 23rd May as to the attitude of the Sultan, Mr. Brodrick proposes, subject to Lord Lansdowne's concurrence, at once to authorise the Government of India to despatch an officer as Political Agent at Koweit.

As regards the importation of arms for Bin Saud, Mr. Brodrick, while not prepared to depart from our declared policy of suppressing the arms traffic, would suggest that action should be deferred on the proposals contained in the penultimate paragraph of my letter of the 18th May, forwarding the Despatch from the Government of India of the 31st March, pending further explanations with the Turkish Government as to their support of Ibn Rashid.

I have, etc.,
A. GODLEY.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

Enclosure No. 6.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
21st June 1904.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 2nd June, on the subject of the hostilities in progress in the Nejd, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to enclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a Despatch which has been addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding to him the observations of the Government of India for such use in his communications with the Porte as he may think judicious.



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I am to state that Lord Lansdowne concurs in Mr. Brodrick's proposal to authorise the immediate dispatch of a Political Agent to Koweit, and to defer for the present any fresh measures for the prevention of importation of arms at that port.

I am, etc.,

T. H. SANDERSON.

The Under-Secretary of State
for India.

Annex.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to SIR N. O'CONOR.

Foreign Office,
21st June 1904.

No. 216.

SIR,

I transmit to Your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence with the India Office, as marked in the margin, on the subject of the hostilities now in progress in the Nejd.

You should make such use as you think judicious of the arguments suggested by the Government of India, in their telegram of the 29th May, in support of your representations to the Turkish Government.

I have concurred in the proposals made in the second and third paragraphs of the India Office letter of the 2nd June.

I am, etc.,

LANSDOWNE.

The Right Hon'ble Sir N. O'Connor, G.C.B.,
etc., etc., etc.

Enclosure No. 7.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
20th October 1904.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of 1st September, relative to the proposal of the Government of India that surveys more extended than those already sanctioned, should be undertaken by the *Investigator* in the neighbourhood of Koweit, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to enclose copy of a Despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople containing observations on the subject. Lord Lansdowne concurs in Sir N. O'Connor's opinion that there is no objection to the proposal.

The second paragraph of the Despatch deals with more general questions, and I am to request that Mr. Secretary Brodrick's attention may be particularly called to His Excellency's observations in regard to possible representations by the Turkish Government on the subject of the appointment of a British Agent at Koweit. The Turkish authorities have already taken notice of the change, as will be seen from the Despatch to Mr. Townley, No. 363, copy of which is enclosed, and it appears to Lord Lansdowne very desirable to decide what answer should be returned to any further enquiries which may be made.

After correspondence between the two Departments in August 1903, the conclusion was arrived at "that it would be best, for the present at least, to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit, and that it would be sufficient that an officer should be deputed by the Consul-General at Bushire to visit Koweit from time to time, remaining there



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for such time as might be desirable, and, if necessary, repeating his visits at intervals until his residence becomes practically permanent."

His Majesty's Government are, therefore, in a position to maintain that no permanent appointment has been made by them which could be regarded as a disturbance of the *status quo* in those regions, and Lord Lansdowne would suggest that the Turkish Government should be so informed if they raise the question. It might be added that while the mission of Major Knox is a special and temporary one, His Majesty's Government must, in view of their arrangements with the Sheikh, reserve to themselves the right to depute an officer to visit Koweit from time to time, at their own uncontrolled discretion as to time and length of stay, in order to report upon the state of affairs at that place and to ensure the successful continuance of the *modus vivendi* already arrived at.

It is, however, essential, should this line of argument eventually be adopted, that the policy agreed upon in August 1903 should be strictly carried out by the withdrawal of Major Knox from Koweit after a reasonable interval.

I am, therefore, to suggest for Mr. Brodrick's consideration that the Government of India should be reminded of the limited character of Major Knox's mission, and should be invited to indicate a suitable moment for his temporary withdrawal.

I am, etc.,
E. GORST.

The Under-Secretary of State
for India.

Annex 1.

SIR N. O'CONOR to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

Therapia,
19th September 1904.

No. 726.

MY LORD,

With reference to your Despatch No. 326, of the 13th September, respecting the proposed survey operations of the *Investigator*, I do not think much is to be gained by abstaining from surveying the Khor Abdullah and the Bubiyan Island channel out of complacency to Turkey, while on the other hand, having in mind the disputed ownership of the island, we should, if anything, gain something by making evident to the Turks our views in regard to that question.

I have had no answer as yet from the Minister for Foreign Affairs with reference to my demand for the withdrawal of the Turkish Military Station on the south-east (Al Geit) point of Bubiyan, but, on the other hand, I have not pressed the matter very hard, as I have kept it as a reply to the representations which are likely to be made at no distant date in connection with the appointment of a British Agent and the establishment of a British Post Office at Koweit.

Meantime I see no objection to the proposed survey of the *Investigator*.

I have, etc.,
N. R. O'CONOR.

The Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G.,
etc., etc., etc.



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Annex 2.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. TOWNLEY.

Foreign Office,
20th October 1904.

No. 363.

SIR,

The Turkish Ambassador inquired, in the course of last month, whether it was true that His Majesty's Government were sending a Consul, a considerable sum of money, and many bags of rice, to Koweit. He had seen a report to that effect, and ask the question merely for his own information.

No definite reply was returned to His Excellency, and he has not since reverted to the subject.

Should the question again be raised in London, nothing will be said inconsistent with the view held by His Majesty's Government in regard to the deputation of a British Agent at Koweit, of which Sir N' Connor was informed in my Despatch No. 234, of 20th August 1903, and you should bear in mind the language used in that Despatch in the event of your being questioned by the Turkish Government.

A copy of a letter which I have caused to be addressed to the India Office on the subject is enclosed for your information.

I am, etc.,

Omitted.

W. B. Townley, Esq.,
etc., etc.

Enclosure No. 8.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. TOWNLEY.

Foreign Office,
20th October 1904.

No. 365.

SIR,

The Turkish Ambassador asked me this evening whether it was true that the Government of India had lately appointed an officer as Political Agent at Koweit. The Turkish Government had been informed that Major Knox, Assistant in the Consulate at Bushire, had been selected for the post. This arrangement appeared to them to involve an unwarrantable disturbance of the *status quo*. I said that I believed it was the case that a British officer had been sent on a mission to Koweit, with instructions to stay there for a time and to collect information, but that he was not going to take up his abode there permanently.

I am, etc.,

LANSDOWNE.

W. B. Townley, Esq.,
etc., etc.



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(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48,
dated the 25th November 1904.)

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[2ND NOVEMBER.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. TOWNLEY.

Foreign Office,
2nd November 1904.

(No. 377.)

SIR,

The Turkish Ambassador told me to-day that he had repeated to the Turkish Government the observations which I had made to him upon the 20th ultimo with regard to the despatch of a British officer to Koweit. He was instructed to tell me that the sending of such an Agent to Koweit without the consent or knowledge of the Turkish Government amounted, in their opinion, to an alteration of the *status quo*, no matter what title might be given to the Agent in question, or what might be the length of his sojourn in the country. His Excellency was desired to make a representation to this effect to me, and to endeavour to obtain the early recall of the Agent in question, and some assurance that such a disturbance of the *status quo* would not be repeated.

I am, etc.,
LANSDOWNE.

(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48,
dated 25th November 1904.)

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[8TH NOVEMBER.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE,—(Received 8th November).

Constantinople,
3rd November 1904.

(No. 851.)

MY LORD,

I have the honour to report that in the course of a conversation to-day at the Sublime Porte, the Grand Vizier alluded to the presence of a British officer at Koweit, saying that such an appointment was in contradiction with the agreement arrived at to maintain the *status quo* in those regions. His Highness said that it was most undesirable that any steps should be taken which might be interpreted as an intention on the part of His Majesty's Government to encourage the Sheikh of Koweit, who had given the Turkish Government considerable trouble by his constant intrigues with men like Sadun Pasha and other turbulent elements.

I replied that I had no authority to discuss the question at length, but that no doubt His Highness was in possession of a report of a recent conversation which Musurus Pasha had had with your Lordship upon this subject, as communicated to me in your despatch No. 365 of the 20th ultimo, and I did not think there was any need for me to say more. I would add, however,

2935 P. D.

Page 33



35

that His Highness must be well aware that the efforts of His Majesty's Government had always been directed to restraining any inclination on the part of Sheikh Mubarrak to mix up in the quarrels which were perpetual in the interior.

Ferid Pasha then repeated that anything which the Sheikh could interpret as a disposition on the part of the British Government to encourage him was to be deprecated, and he expressed the hope that His Majesty's Government would issue the necessary instructions that Major Knox should leave Koweit, as the Porte could not but consider his presence there an infringement of the *status quo*.

I here took occasion to remark that the continued maintenance of a military post on Bubian Island was looked upon by His Majesty's Government in the same light, and I reminded his Highness and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was present at the interview, that the *note verbale* from the Embassy protesting against its continuance still remained unanswered.

Tewfik Pasha replied that he had explained to Sir Nicholas O'Connor that the military post had been established on the island for the protection of the fishermen on the coast, and that Sheikh Mubarrak had never established any claim to the island, which was a barren, uninhabitable waste.

I refused to discuss the question, and contented myself with saying that His Majesty's Government did not share the views of the Ottoman Government on this question, and that Sir Nicholas O'Connor had certainly not taken His Excellency's verbal statements as an answer to the note.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48, dated the 25th November 1904.)

FOWEIT.

[4TH NOVEMBER.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION I.

No. 1.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. TOWNLEY.

Foreign Office,
4th November 1904.

(No. 380.)

SIR,

The Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect.

As the Turkish Government had already declared, the presence of a British Agent at Koweit could only be regarded as an infringement of the *status quo*. A simple examination of the question would convince me of this. I was doubtless as anxious as the Porte for the strict maintenance of this understanding arrived at by the two Governments on this subject, and the Imperial Government felt sure that a study of the documents would of itself be sufficient to enlighten me.

His Excellency was therefore instructed to press for the prompt recall of our Agent.

I told the Ambassador in reply that, in view of the attitude of the Turkish Government in regard to the Aden Iradé, I was not prepared to discuss this question.

I am, etc.,

LANSDOWNE.



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No. 48,

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(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48,
dated the 25th November 1904.)

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[10TH NOVEMBER.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

The MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE to MR. TOWNLEY.

Foreign Office,
10th November 1904.

(No. 390-A.)

SIR,

The Turkish Ambassador made to me to-day a statement to the following effect in regard to the visit of Major Knox to Koweit:—

Recent information received by the Imperial Government showed that Major Knox was not alone at Koweit. He had with him eight Spahis; he had taken into his service as Secretary a man named Abdulah; he had entered into relations with the natives, was interfering in affairs of administration, and had hoisted the English flag over his residence.

The Imperial Ottoman Government felt sure that Lord Lansdowne would not fail to see that these proceedings, which gave to Major Knox' Mission a character very different from that which it was represented to be, were in contravention of the Agreement arrived at between the two States in regard to the *status quo* at Koweit.

His Excellency was therefore instructed to press for the immediate recall of the Agent in question.

I promised His Excellency that I would at once make inquiry into the facts. I imagined that officials travelling in that part of the world usually took with them a certain number of retainers, but that I could not admit the correctness of the information which the Turkish Government had received, or announce the action which His Majesty's Government were likely to take, until I had ascertained what had really taken place.

I am, etc.,
LANSDOWNE.

(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48,
dated 25th November 1904.)

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[17TH NOVEMBER.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office,
17th November 1904.

SIR,

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, for the observations of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople,* in which his Lordship has recorded a conversation with the Turkish Ambassador regarding the visit of Major Knox to Koweit.

I am, etc.,
ELDON GORST.

* To Mr. Townley, No. 390-A, 10th November 1904.



37

37

(Received on 12th December 1904 with Political Secretary's letter No. 48, dated the 25th November 1904.)

Foreign Office to India Office.

25th November 1904.

SIR,

The Marquess of Lansdowne has given careful consideration to the telegram from the Viceroy of India of November 19th regarding Koweit, enclosed in your letter of the same date.

This telegram is an answer to a telegram from the Secretary of State for India of November 11th, in which it was stated that, in view of the general situation elsewhere, His Majesty's Government considered it desirable that Major Knox should be temporarily withdrawn from Koweit, in order not to raise a difficult question with the Turkish Government at the present moment; the Government of India was accordingly requested by Mr. Brodrick to consider the question with a view to fixing the earliest possible date for his withdrawal. When the Viceroy's telegram of November 19th was despatched, the Government of India had not received Mr. Brodrick's communication of November 11th, which gives a detailed explanation of the policy of His Majesty's Government and it is possible that, had this information been before them, the view taken by the Viceroy might have been somewhat modified.

But in any case Lord Lansdowne cannot think that the view taken by the Government of India is altogether well-founded. It appears indeed to be based upon a complete misapprehension of the circumstances in which His Majesty's Government gave their sanction to the deputation of Major Knox to visit Koweit as an Agent of the British Government.

His Majesty's Government have never agreed to the appointment of a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit. This course, which was suggested for consideration by Sir N. O'Connor in his telegram No. 112 of July 18th, 1903, and supported by the Government of India in their telegram of July 31st, was discussed at length by the two Departments in the correspondence noted in the margin. Copies of these letters were no doubt forwarded to India

Omitted in Foreign Office letter.

in the ordinary course, and the decision of His Majesty's Government is clearly and sufficiently summarised in the following telegram, dated August 26th, from the Secretary of State to the Government of India:—

"On the whole His Majesty's Government consider that the proposal to appoint a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit could not but be regarded as a departure, only to be justified by clear necessity, from the *status quo* which they have insisted upon so strongly in their discussions with the Turkish Government. Proposal to take Consul at Mohammerah away from his commercial duties in Persia in order to deal with questions of an entirely different class connected with Turkish Arabia is also one to which the Foreign Office object. It is considered that the existing system, under which the ordinary channel of communication with Koweit is the Resident in the Persian Gulf or one of his subordinates, works well on the whole. Closer touch with Koweit could, if found necessary hereafter, be gradually established by repeating at intervals temporary visits of selected officers until his residence becomes practically permanent."

It would obviously not be consistent with the policy thus expressed to make an immediate and permanent appointment of a British Agent to reside at Koweit, nor would it be possible to reconcile such an appointment with the assurances given to Turkey regarding the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Persian Gulf; on the other hand, the deputation of an officer to visit Koweit from time to time as a temporary measure has received the full approval of His Majesty's Government, and it was always intended that in any communications which might take place with the Turkish Government the right to take this step as often as it may seem desirable to do so should be absolutely reserved.



's letter No. 48,

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page 9

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When therefore the Government of India suggested, in their telegram of May 20th, 1904, that the moment was opportune for the despatch of an officer to Koweit, His Majesty's Government gave their sanction to the proposal, but they certainly did not intend that there should be any departure from the conditions upon which they had originally insisted.

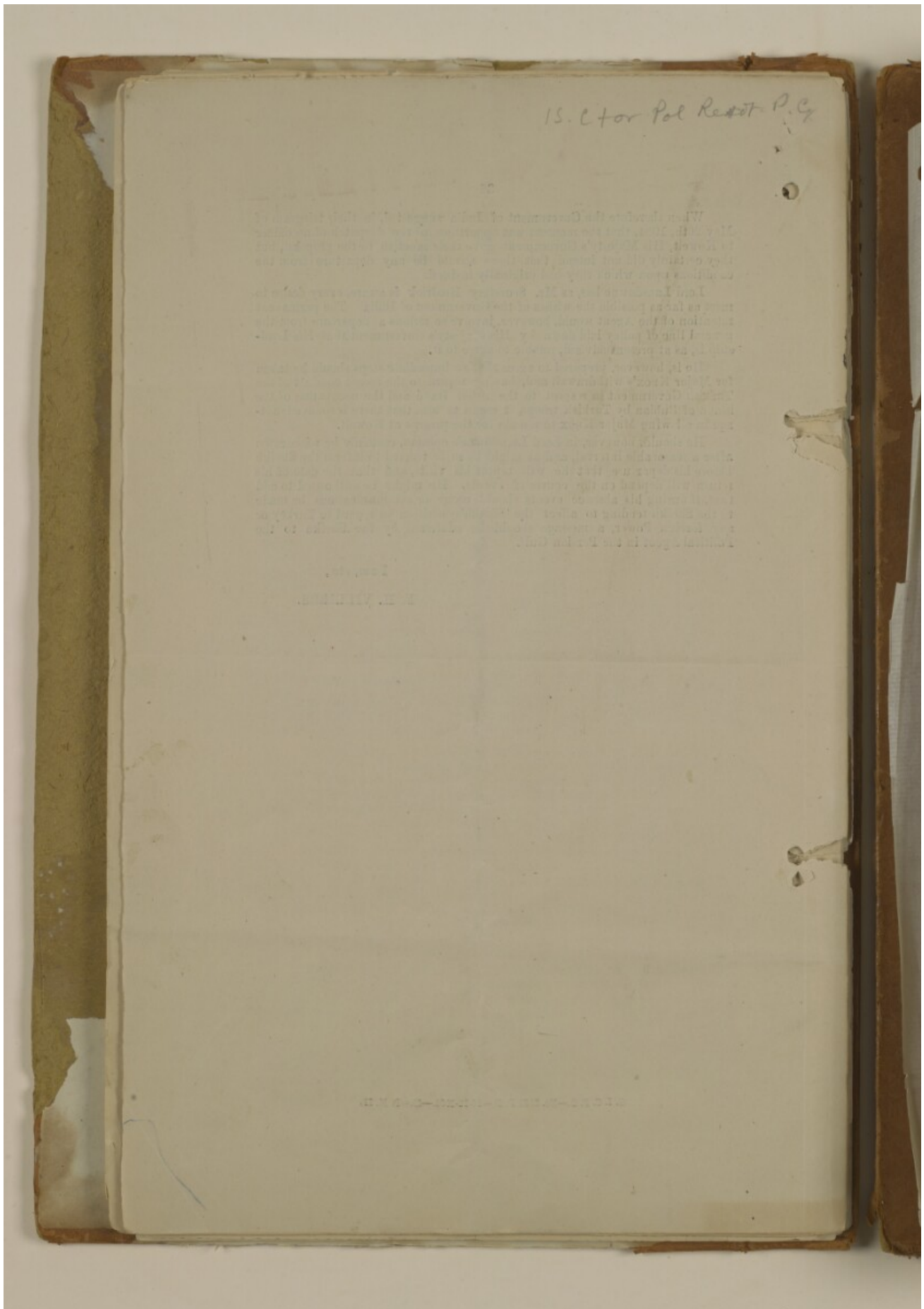
Lord Lansdowne has, as Mr. Secretary Brodrick is aware, every desire to meet as far as possible the wishes of the Government of India. The permanent retention of the Agent would, however, involve so serious a departure from the general line of policy laid down by His Majesty's Government that His Lordship is, as at present advised, unable to agree to it.

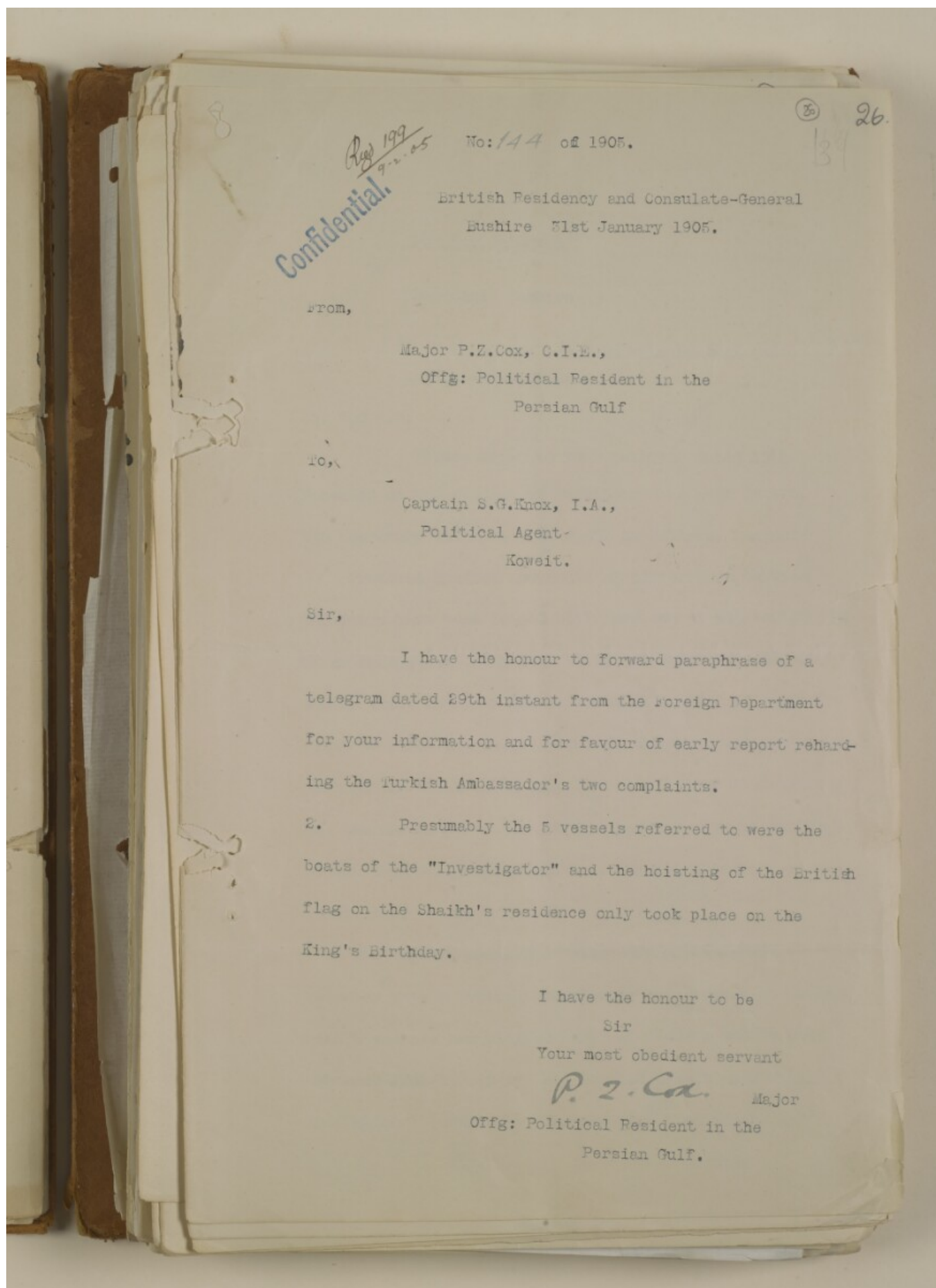
He is, however, prepared to agree that no immediate steps should be taken for Major Knox's withdrawal, and, having regard to the recent conduct of the Turkish Government in respect to the Aden Iradé and the occupation of the island of Bubian by Turkish troops, it seems to him that there is some advantage in allowing Major Knox to remain for the present at Koweit.

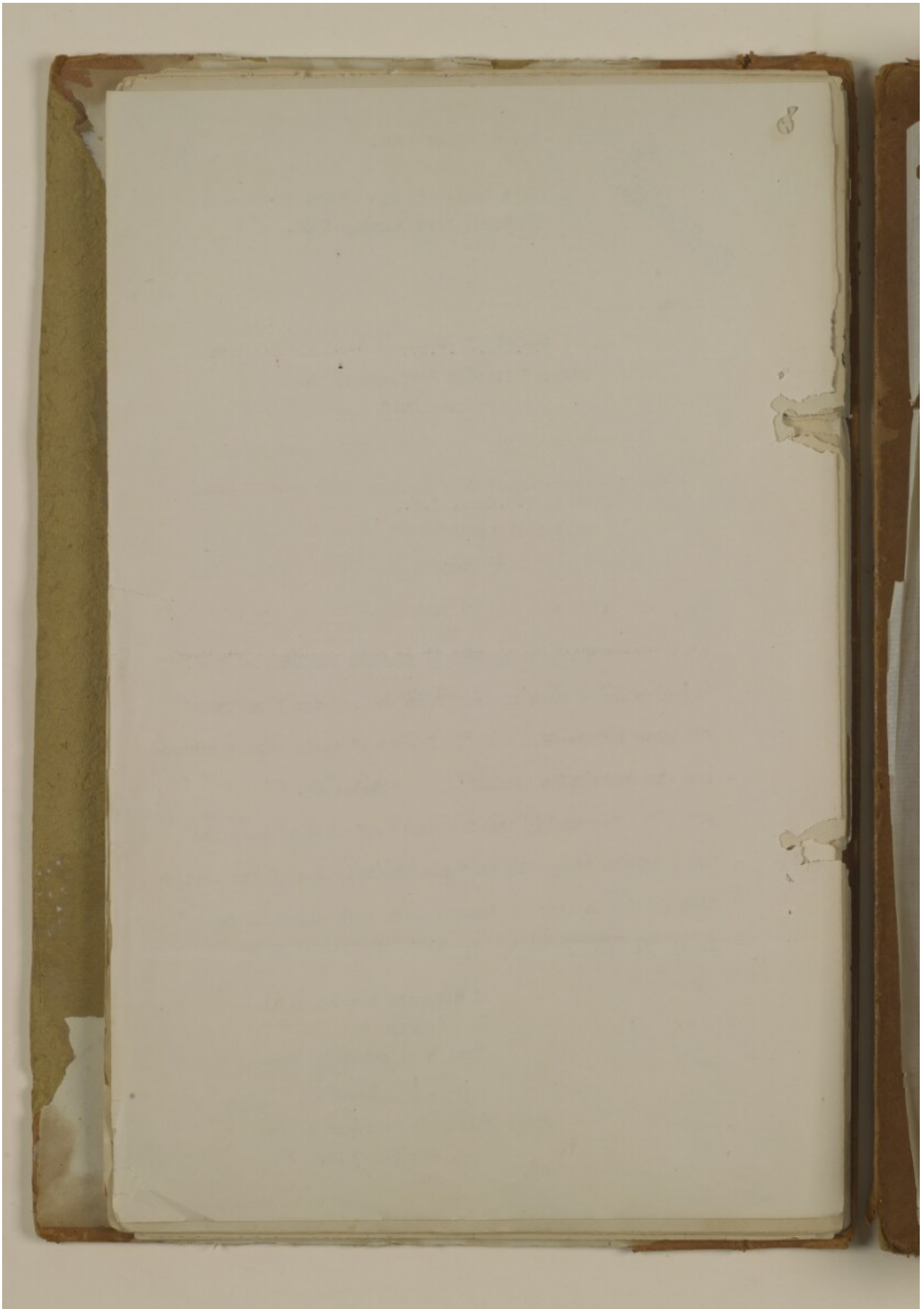
He should, however, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, certainly be withdrawn after a reasonable interval, and he might be so instructed to inform the Sheikh before his departure that he will repeat his visits, and that the date of his return will depend on the course of events. He might be authorised to add that, if during his absence events should occur or communications be made to the Sheikh tending to affect the Sheikh's position in regard to Turkey or any foreign Power, a message should be addressed by the Sheikh to the Political Agent in the Persian Gulf.

I am, etc.,

F. H. VILLIERS.









Telegram P.

From

Foreign Calcutta

To

Resident Bushire

Dated and received January 29th 1905

No: 400 H.P.

Please refer to your telegram dated 15th
December on the subject of Gazetteer Tour near Koweit.

The Secretary of State telegraphs as follows, begins:

Protests against movements of Officers in Turkish
Territory have been lodged both here and at Constantinople.
It is understood by us that it is not intended that they
should visit Mejd nor the interior of Arabia and that the
visit to Mejd has been abandoned. Under the circumstances
perhaps the visit to El Nasa had also better be abandoned
and the movements of the party elsewhere must be confined
to the immediate hinterland i.e. the neighbourhood of the
Coast line.

The Turkish Ambassador also complained on 28th
December that a British functionary had arrived at Koweit
with 5 vessels had planted marks at various points some
distance from Koweit and had incited tribes near Kiasail
and Umkar to submit to Mubarak, also that Shaika has

hoisted



41
hoisted British Flag on his palace. HDS.

8
Please report purport to Lorimer for guidance and let him know that Ambassador at Constantinople is assuring him that he will not be molested in Kateef or at any reasonable distance inland but that the Turkish authorities will not allow him to go to El Hesa. Please also report whether he has visited Nejed as originally intended. Also telegraph specific reply to Turkish Ambassador's complaint.

11
Lastly Lorimer should keep us informed of changes in his programme.



P. R.

N. 211 D. 11. 2. 05.

Sir

I have the honour to
acknowledge the receipt
of your no: 144. dt 31/1/5.
calling for an early
report regarding the
Turkish ambassador's

Complaints contained
in F.O. tel^m no: 400
E. B.

2. I can only conclude
that the first portion of
the first complaint refers
to the survey measures
taken by the Commander
R. J. M. S. Investigator
while the latter portion
probably refers to Mr
Gabriel's visit to



¹⁴³
 Unkass. The British
 functionary may be myself
 & it is hardly necessary
 to say that no attempt was
 made by me to invite
 Arab tribes to submit
 to Mobarak. I doubt if
 I spoke to or met with
 twenty persons outside
 my camp followed in
 between Sabij'a &
 my return to Jahra, as I
 carefully avoided all
 communication with the
 natives at either Unkass
 or Sefwan & the rest of the
 country was uninhabited.

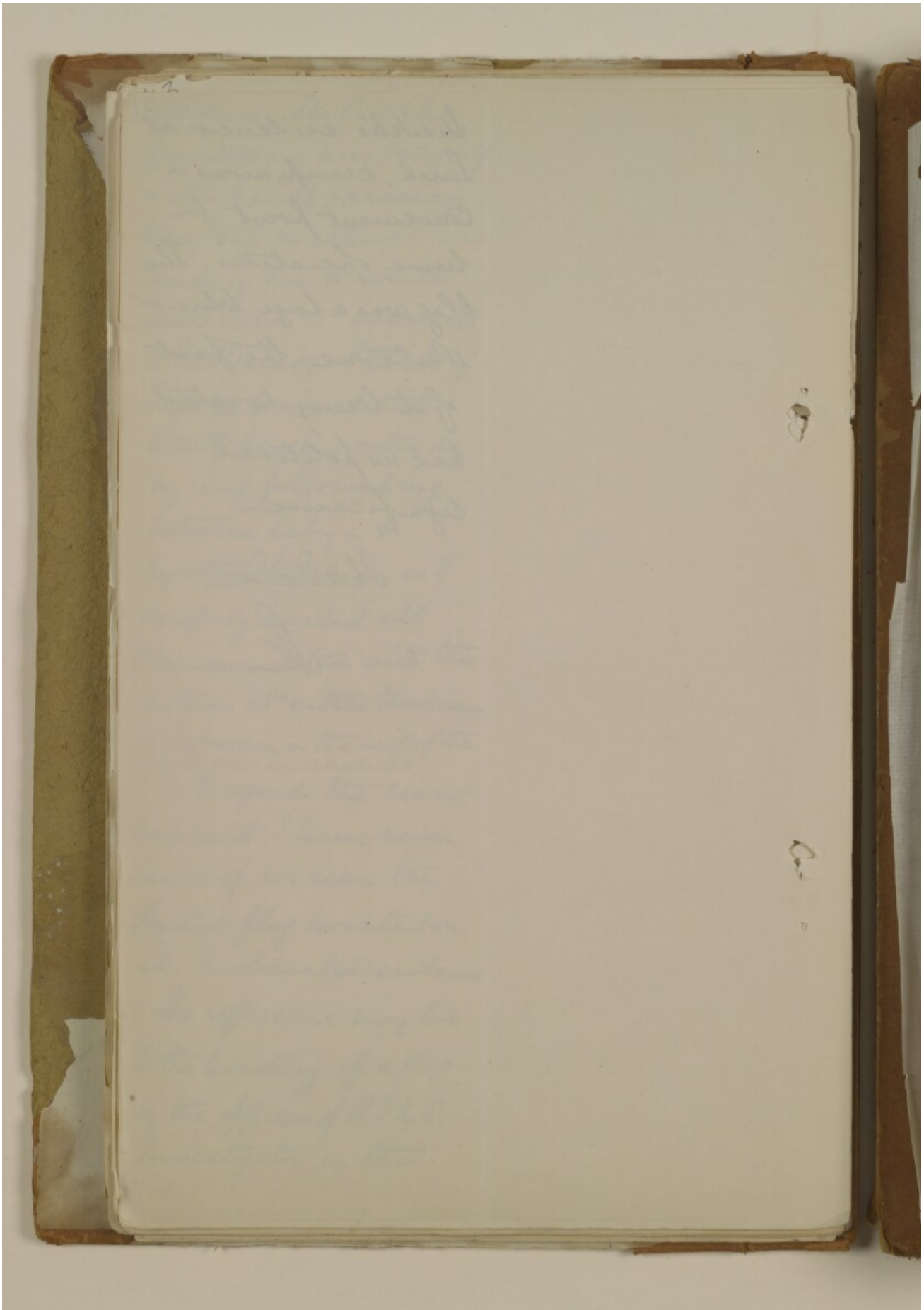
3. As regards the second
 complaint, I have never
 heard of nor seen the
 British flag hoisted on
 Sh. Mobarak's residence

The reference may be
 to the hoisting of a flag
 by the officers of R.I.M.S.
 Investigator on the



Sheikh's residence⁽²⁴⁾ at²⁹
Luriah, a conspicuous &
convenient point for
sume, operations. The
flag was a large blue &
white one the fact
of its being hoisted
had no political
significance

Shaveh
K.





[Confidential.]

No. 104, dated Bushire, the 25th February (received 8th March) 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., for Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my telegram, dated 21st February 1905, on the subject of complaints made by the Turkish Government, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government

of India, a copy of the marginally noted letter from Captain S. G. Knox on the subject, and to submit a report in detail.

2. Mr. Lorimer gives the following explanation as far as the complaints relate to the movements of the Gazetteer party:—No visit to Nejd by any members of the Gazetteer party was ever contemplated. The visit to Nejd has been abandoned, and the Gazetteer party after proceeding to Karbala returned to Baghdad *via* Hilla, and have now finally left Turkish Arabia. Mr. Lorimer has abandoned his idea of a visit to El Hassa and will keep you informed as far as possible of changes in his programme.

3. The complaint about "the British functionary" with "5 vessels" can only refer to the proceedings of the Officer in Charge of the Marine Survey when surveying Koweit Harbour, and as the *Investigator* is shortly to recommence operations no doubt some more sensational reports may be anticipated.

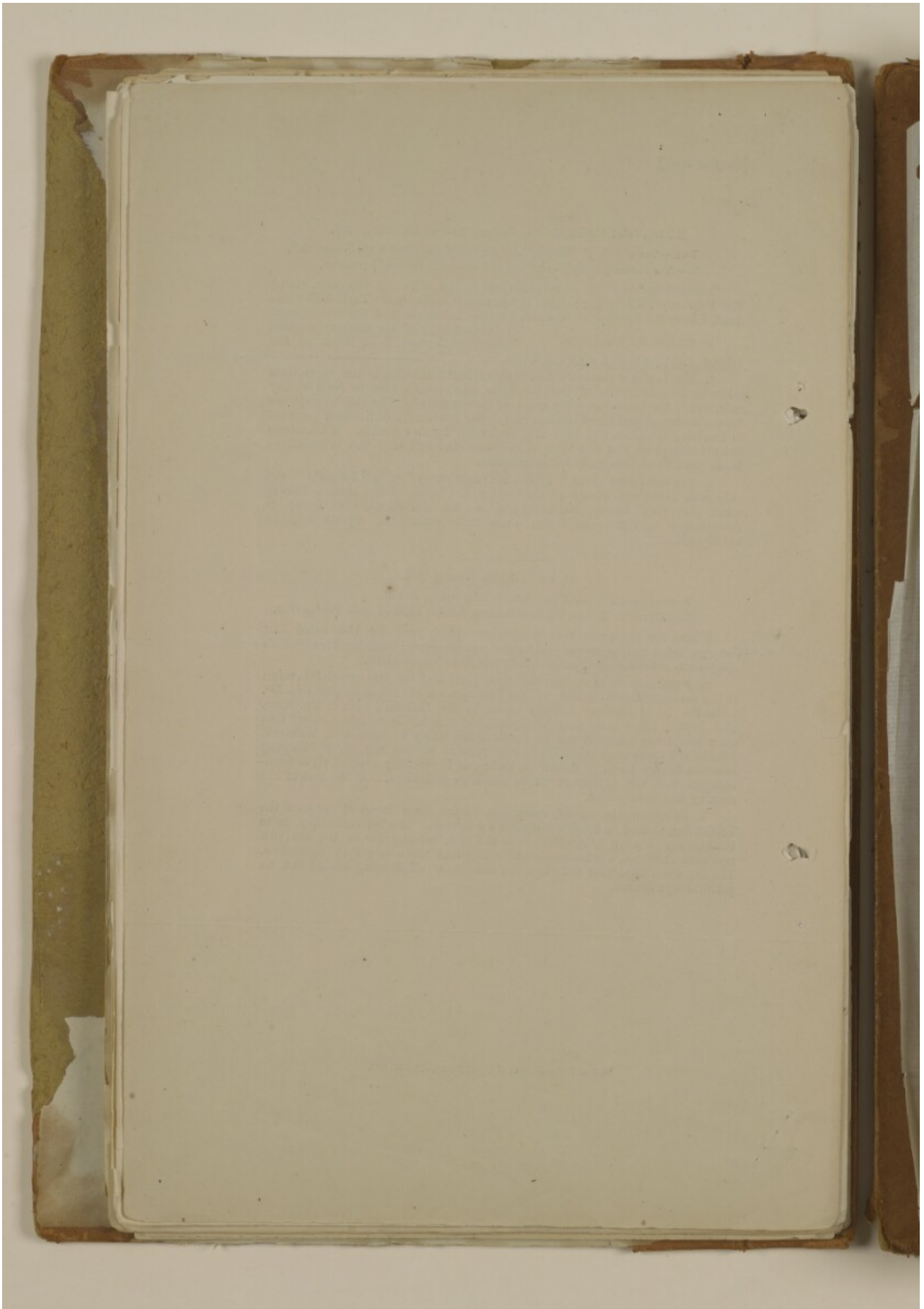
No. 211, dated the 11th February 1905.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your No. 144, dated 31st January 1905, calling for an early report regarding the Turkish Ambassador's complaints contained in Foreign Office telegram No. 400-E.B.

2. I can only conclude that the first portion of the first complaint refers to the survey measures taken by the Commander of R.I.M.S. *Investigator*, while the latter portion probably refers to Mr. Gabriel's visit to Um-Kasr. The British functionary may be myself, and it is hardly necessary to say that no attempt was made by me to incite Arab tribes to submit to Mubarak. I doubt if I spoke to or met with twenty persons outside my camp following between Subiya and my return to Jahra, as I carefully avoided all communication with the natives at either Um-Kasr or Sefwan, and the rest of the country was uninhabited.

3. As regards the second complaint, I have never heard of nor seen the British flag hoisted on Sheikh Mubarak's residence. The reference may be to the hoisting of a flag by the Officers of R.I.M.S. *Investigator* on the Sheikh's residence at Sirrah, a conspicuous and convenient point for survey operations. The flag was a large blue and white one and the fact of its being hoisted had no political significance.





Cpl

To P. R. (31) 31

D. 27/10/55

N. 134 D. 28/10/55

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I arrived at Koweit ^{late in} ~~on~~ the evening of Wednesday the 26th of October & took over charge of the Agency from A. S. Isood in Rahman (in charge current duties) next morning.

2. I have had no reason to complain of my welcome on my return. At break of day on Thursday, a messenger arrived to say that Sheikh Mubarak



proposed to visit me &
the Sheikh followed 7
hard at his heels. He
was accompanied by his
son Sheikh Jabir & his son
Abdulla, his secretary.
This was the beginning
of a long stream of visitors
of all ranks
who kept me busy all
day receiving their visits
& listening to the pleasant
things they were good
enough to say to me on my
return. In the course of
Thursday & Friday, I think
I must have seen everybody
whose acquaintance I
had made during my
previous stay at Koweit.
3. I returned the Sheikh's
visit on Friday morning
& he has just been



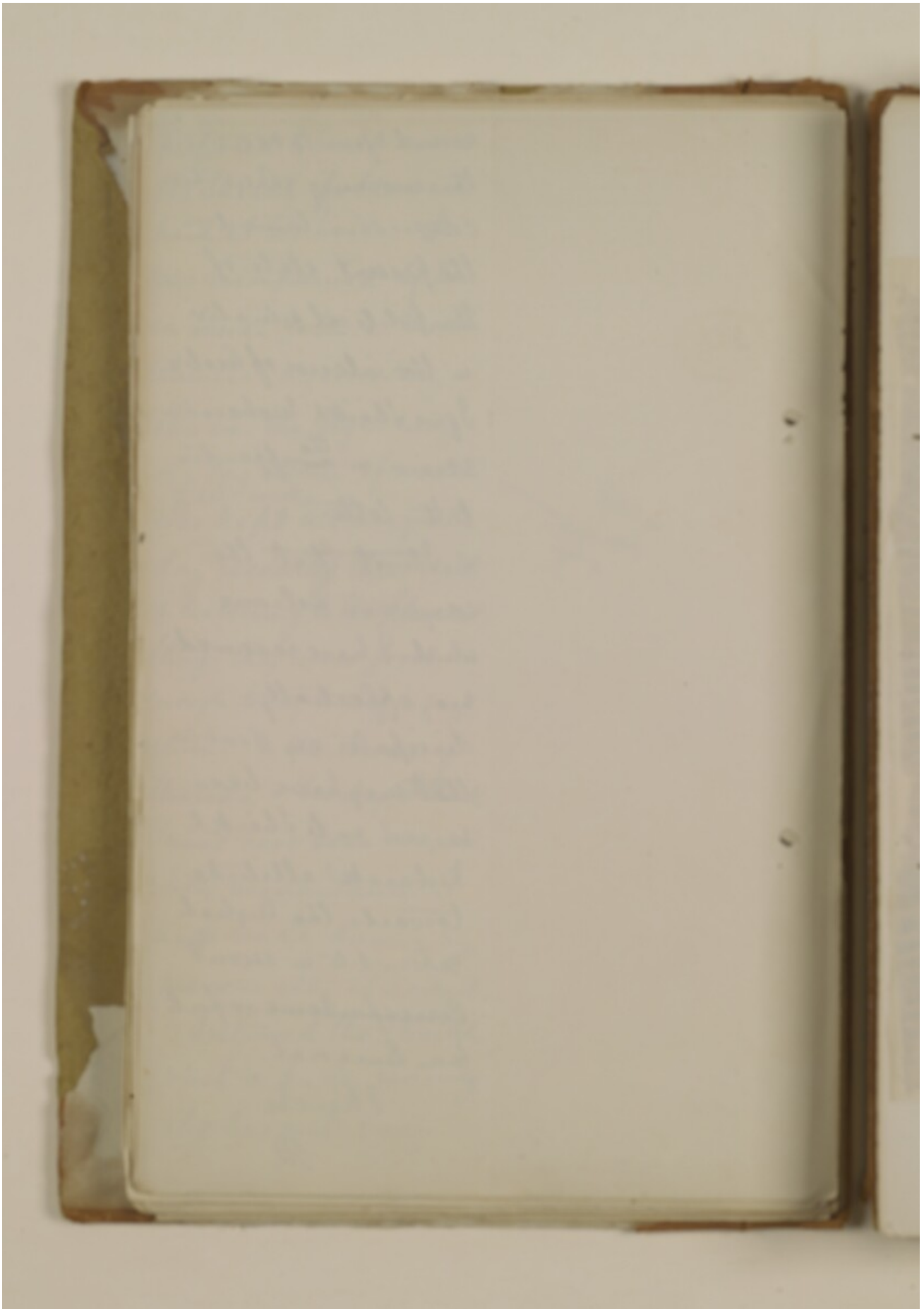
round again to see me ³² 32
this morning when the
conversation turned on
the present state of
the political situation
in the interior of Arabia.
I give Sheikh Muabarak's
version in ^{the} ~~an~~ appendix
to this letter.

4. I trust that the
very warm welcome
which I have received
may effectually
dissipate any doubts
that may have been
raised as to Sheikh
Muabarak's attitude
towards the English
referred to in recent
Correspondence reports
from Bassorah.

I have &c

SK.

in file
page 136
W. 1894





BUSHIRE.

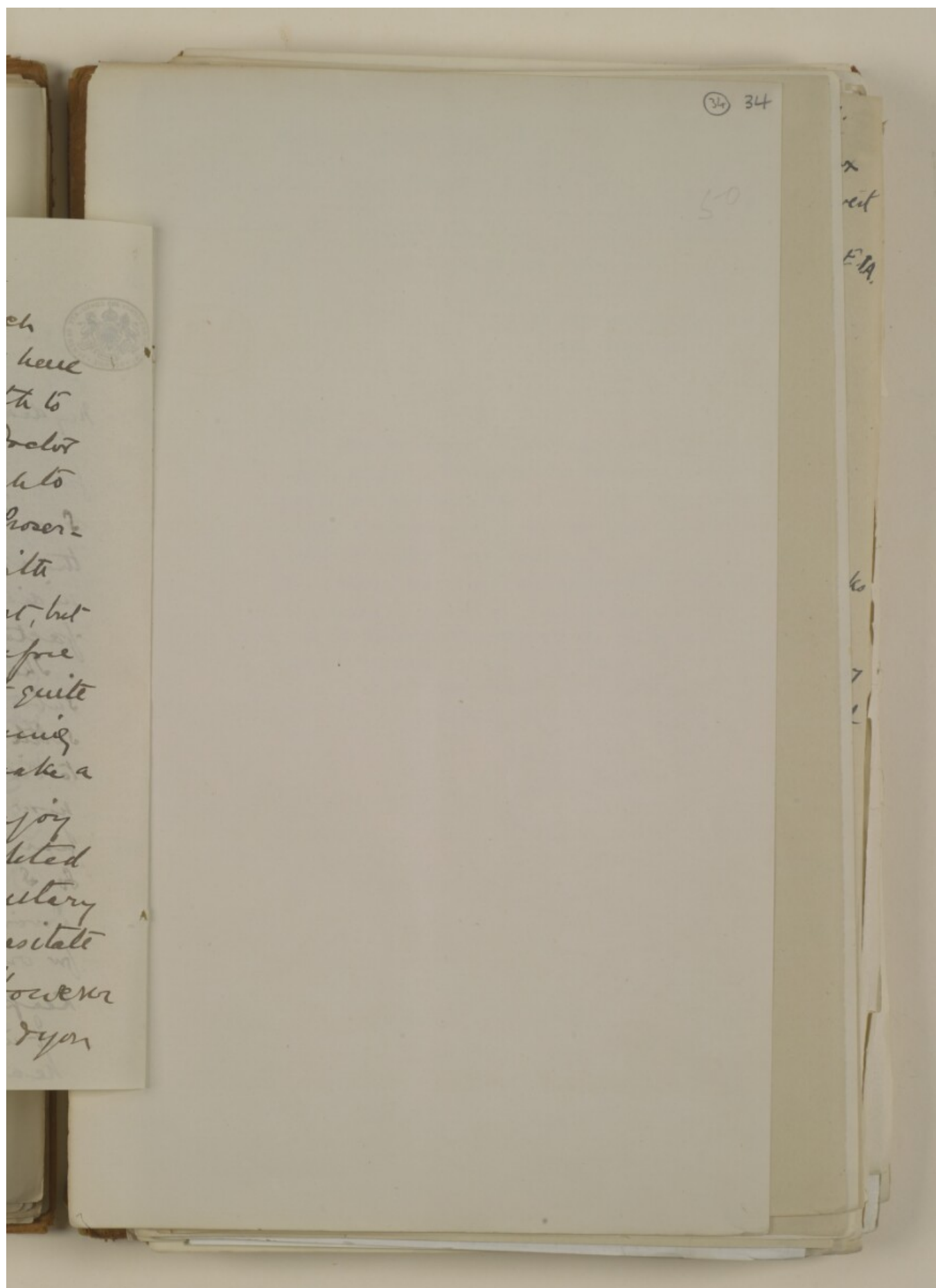
Feb. 5th 1907.

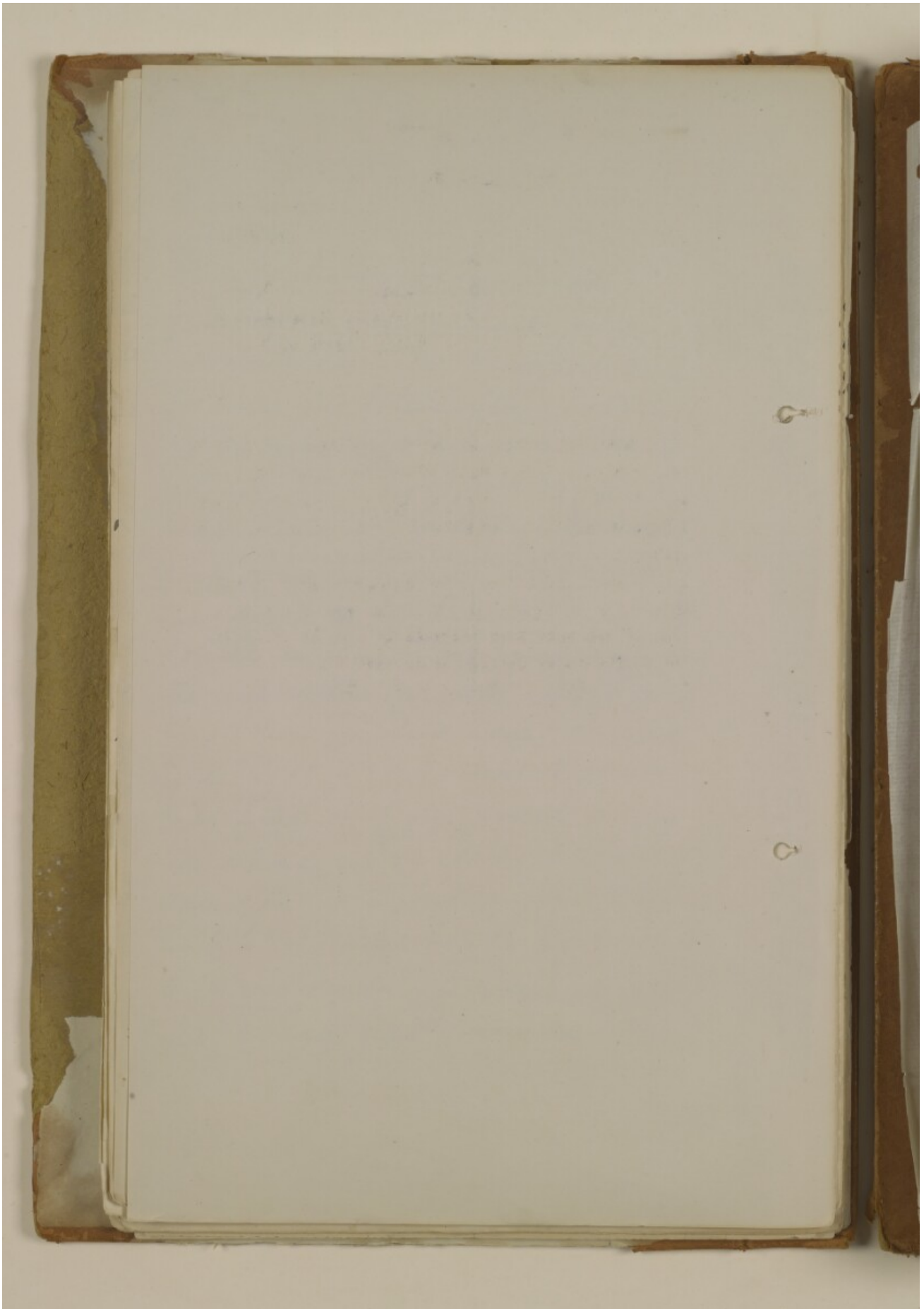
(33) 33

My dear Kurose. ^{File XXXV 5} Interesting letters
from your last mail - re Bender
Swaitkh - & Majd affairs - many
thanks - I think the situation
indicated as regards the post is satis-
factory and that Gov. will be pleased.
I have several times reverted to the
subsidiary question & I hope this will
settle the matter - They are so ready
to sit upon any suggestions whatever
nowadays that there must be too
few that they will continue to do
so. I Thanks for letter re the Pearl
Drivers - This season is done with
for our purposes so the references will
keep until next steamer.
It is not worth while making
heavy weather over it: before



50
Next season we can make
general arrangements: such
are possible. Mrs. Knowlton here
for my wife's letter. She is loth to
go so soon, but when the Doctor
advises it is not good enough to
encourage her to stay. The Proser-
pine comes up on 8th. We go with
me down to the Pirate Coast, but
I shall no doubt be back before
the end of the month. I don't quite
know how you feel about coming
here. If it is convenient to make a
halt here, or if you would enjoy
the change I shall be delighted
to see you both, but my sedentary
habits at present make me hesitate
to press visitors to come. However
you must suit yourselves & you







Confidential No: 283 of 1907.

35 35

CONFIDENTIAL

From Major E.G. Knox I.A.

Political Agent
Koweit .

To Major P.Z. Cox C.I.E., I.A.

Resident & H.B.M.'s Consul-General
in the Persian Gulf , Bushire

Dated Koweit 11/6/7.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that , in conversation with me , Sheikh MobaYak frequently refers to his secret agreement with the British Government and I find myself in an embarrassing position , as I am unable to verify his statements .

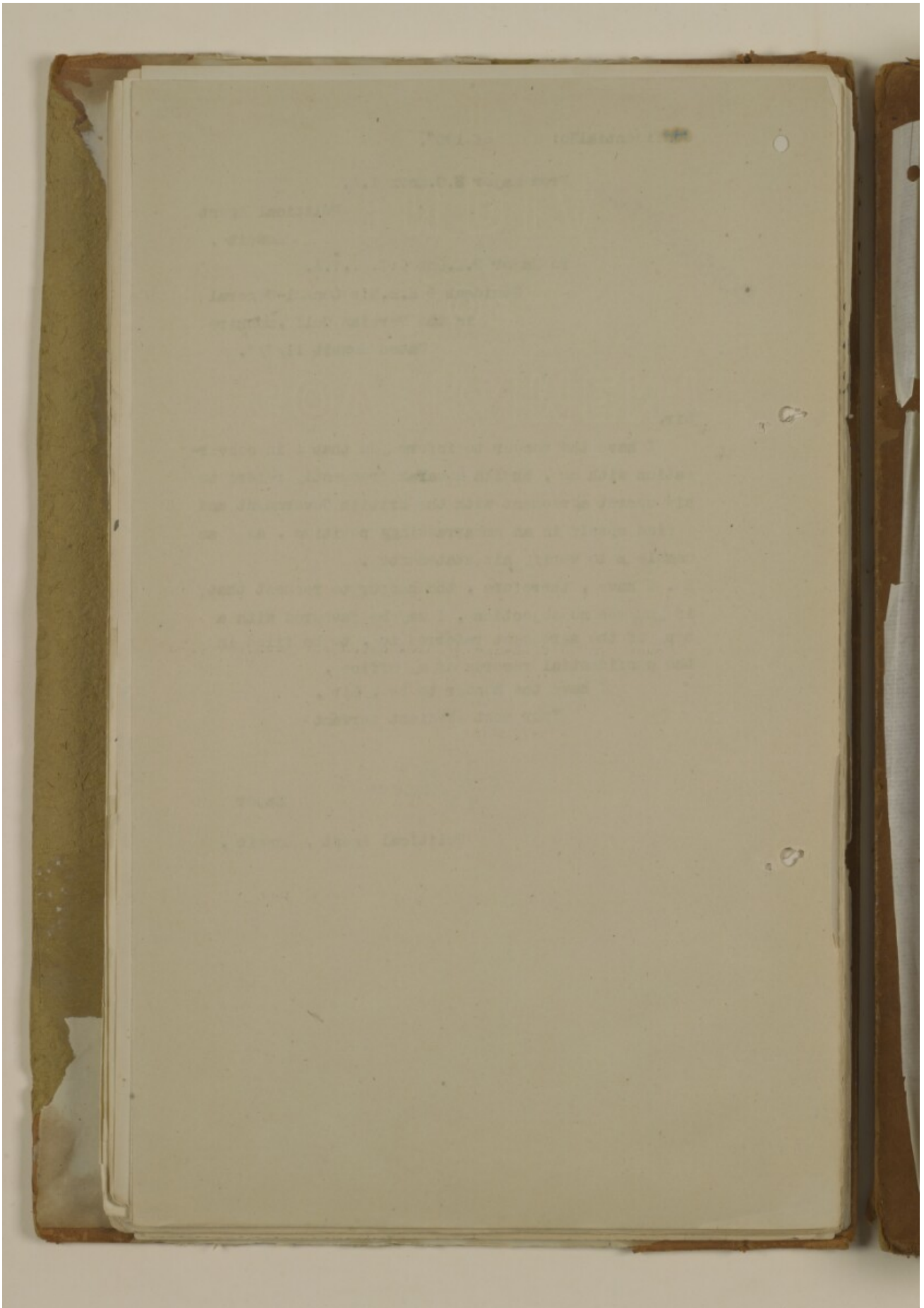
2 . I have , therefore , the honour to request that , if you see no objection , I may be favoured with a copy of the agreement referred to , to be filed in the confidential records of my office ,

I have the honour to be , Sir ,

Your most obedient servant

Major

Political Agent , Koweit ,





SECRET.

(36) 36

52

No: 1302 of 1907.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th June, 1907.

To

The Political Agent,
K O W E I T.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No: 283 dated 11th June 1907, I have the honour to forward a translation of the Secret Agreement between the British Government and Sheikh Mubarek dated 23rd January 1899.

It should be kept in your "safe" or other suitable receptacle in your personal charge and not placed on an office file.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

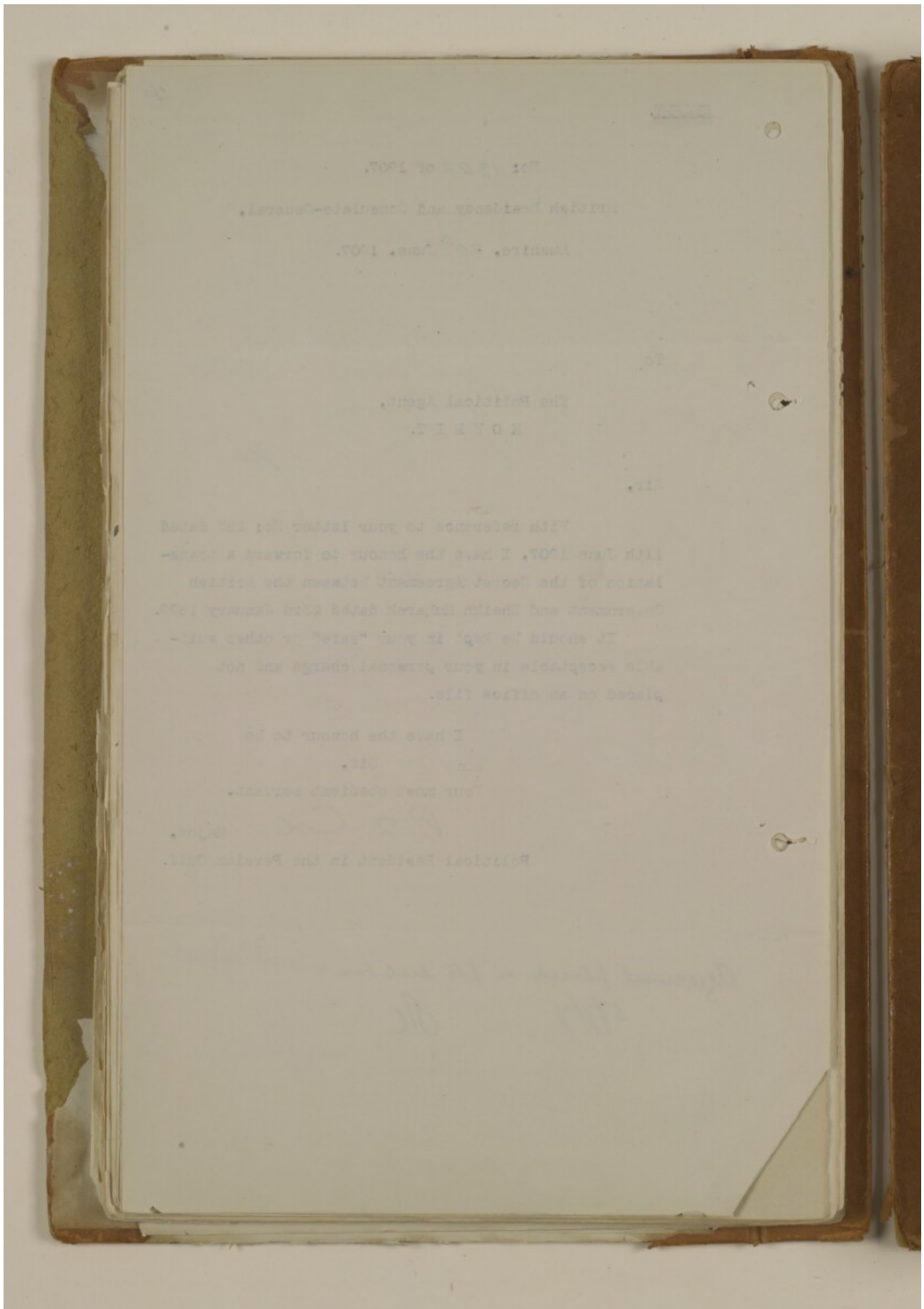
P. 2. Cox

Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

*Agreement placed in the cash box in Consul's cupboard
5/7/7*

SK





CONFIDENTIAL

No: 849 of 1907. 37
From

Major S. G. Knox⁽³⁾

Pol. Agent Koweit

To Major P. L. Cox C.D. E.L.

P.R. Bushie

D. Koweit.

17/7.

Sir,

I have the honour
to acknowledge with thanks
the receipt of your Secret
No 1302 of 20th June 1907
with which was forwarded
a translation of the
Secret Agreement
between the British
Government & Sheikh
Muhammad of 23rd Jan'y
1899.

The instructions
given by you as to its
safe custody have



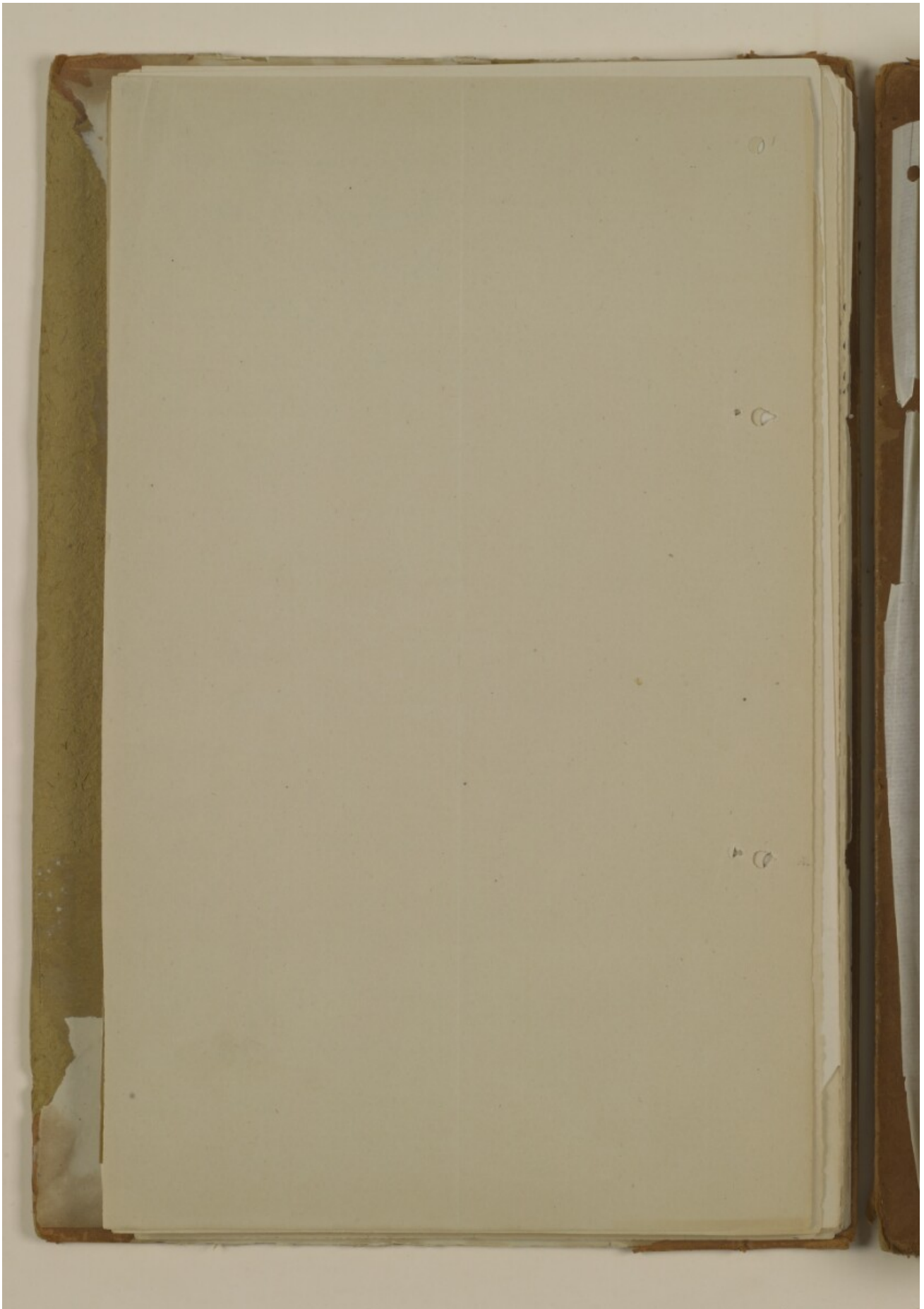
been noted by me & ^{1/2} will be carefully observed.

3. In this connection,
I have the honour to
observe that the
agreement in question
appears to bind only
the Sheikh of Koweit,
his heirs & successors.
Any corresponding
obligation on the part
of the British Govern-
ment or its officers
does not appear to be
contemplated by the
agreement. I have
therefore the honour
to enquire whether
^{it} ~~is~~ in fact the
case there is any
document defining
such obligation & to



55 request that, if ³⁸such
a document exists,
I may, if you see no
objection, be ^{favoured} furnished
with a copy thereof
I have &c

R





Confidential

No: 1596 of 1907.

59 39
56

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 23rd July 1907.

To

The Political Agent,
K O W E I T.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No: 349
dated 5th July 1907 on the subject of the Koweit
Agreement, I have the honour to inform you that as
far as I am aware no document of the nature referred
to by you is in existence.

I have the honour to be

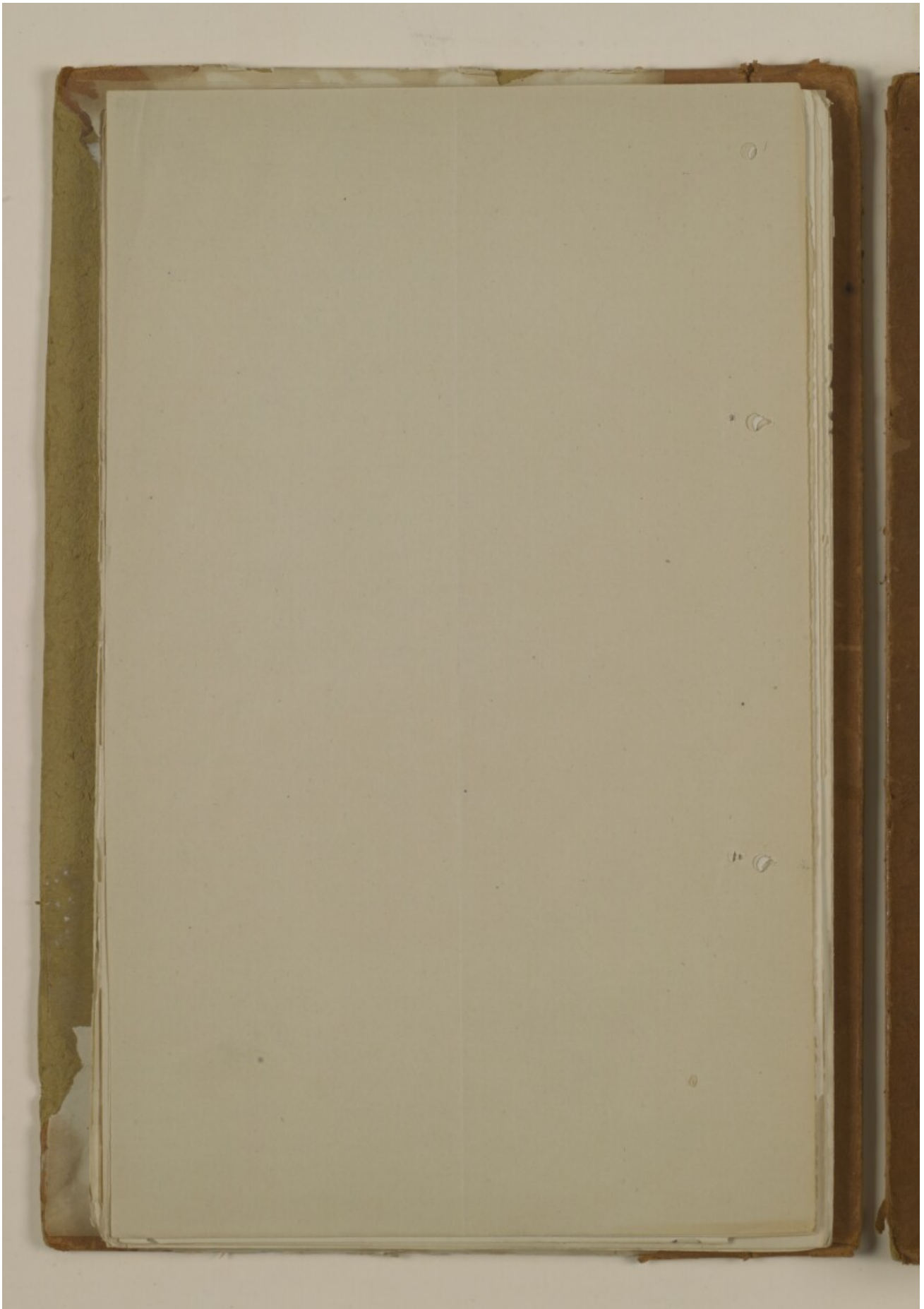
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

W. S. M.

First Assistant Resident.

(In charge current duties).





Confidential

(40) 40

H.C. please
file of my
take up of Mohammedah
dest 5/8/77 July 27 1907
Dear Knox, JH
An Arab friend of mine
tells me he has been told by
a man from Koweit that
Sheikh Mukarram has several
times said to Koweit people that
he wished he could get rid of
the British agent, and some of
the people had been making
discussing plans to trump



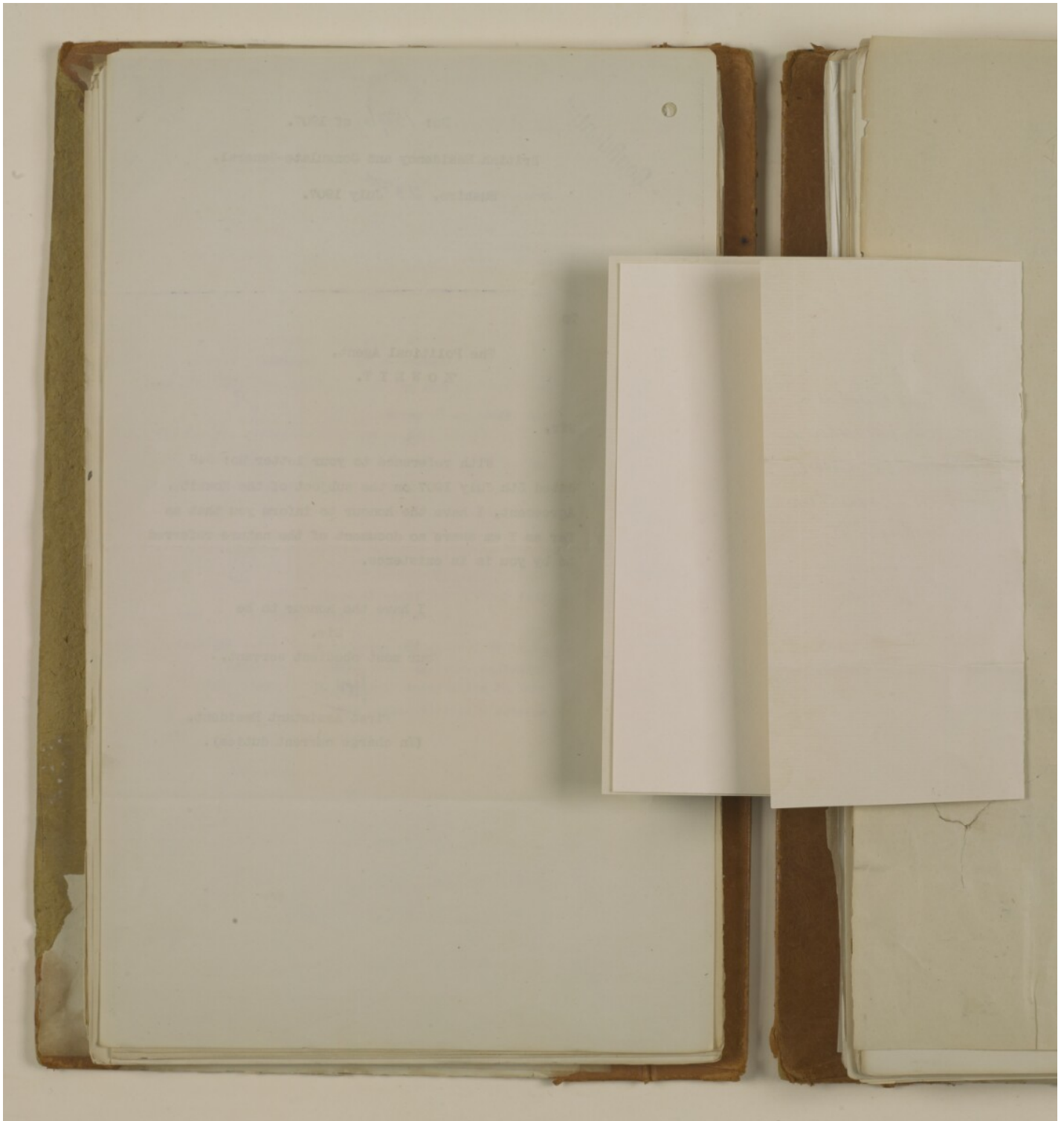
58
up something against you. It
had been suggested to smuggle
a woman into your house and
then accuse you of having enticed
her. He says something of the
kind was done before to get
rid of some agent. Also that
Jabari, Mubarek's son, is
opposed to this but not Mubarek.

I do not know that this
story is worth anything and am
a little suspicious that it may
be originated to make me



59 (11)
Suspensions of Sheikh Akhbal, as my
informant is not a well known of
his; but think it as well to
let you know in case there
should be anything in it.

James Cuning
McDonnell





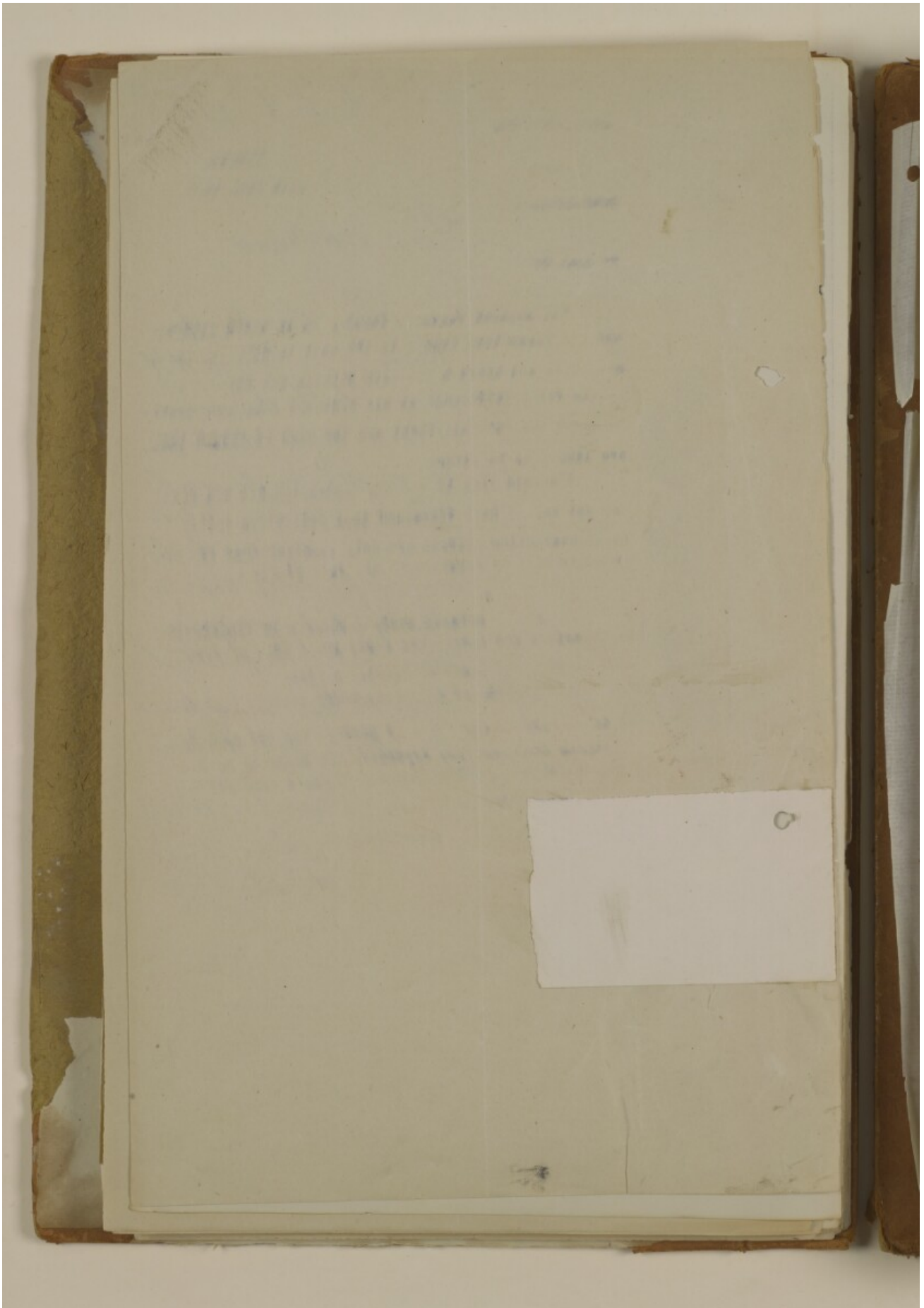
Koweit 18/7 ⁽⁴²⁾ 41

Dear McDonnell,

Many thanks for
passing on to me that
story about the woman.
I don't think there can
be much in it and
with my native Indian
servants it would be
an impossible scheme,
even if it had ever
been contemplated.

None the less many thanks
for telling me know.

Yrs sincerely
W. S. G. Knox





(1,3) 42
66
COPY EXTRACT.

Koweit,
24th June 1908.

Demi-Official.

My dear Cox,

* * * * *
What Mubarak wants, I fancy, is to alarm Stamboul and get peremptory orders to the Wali to drop the whole question and avoid a row with Mubarak and British pretexts for interference at all costs and I have no doubt he knows the Turk all right and the kind of orders that are likely to be given.

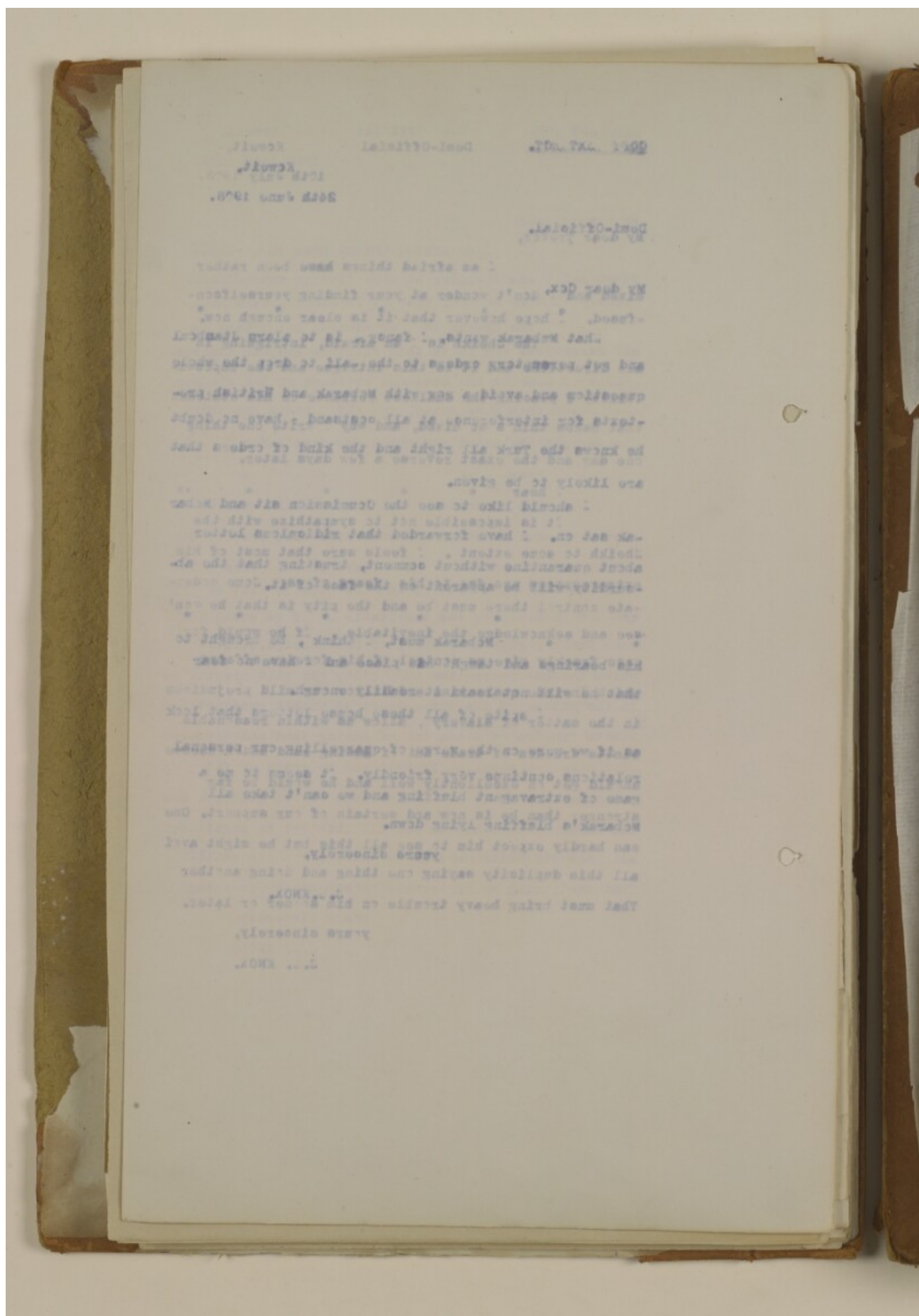
I should like to see the Commission sit and Mubarak sat on. I have forwarded that ridiculous letter about quarantine without comment, trusting that the absurdity will be apparent on the face of it.

* * * * *
Mubarak must, I think, be brought to his bearings and taught his place and I have no fear that he will not learn it readily enough.

In spite of all these house letters that look as if we were on the verge of quarrelling our personal relations continue very friendly. It seems to me a game of extravagant bluffing and we can't take all Mubarak's bluffing lying down.

yours sincerely,

S. G. KNOX.





44 43
62
COPY EXTRACT.

Demi-Official

Koweit,

10th July 1908.

My dear Trevor,

I am afraid things have been rather mixed and I don't wonder at your finding yourself confused. I hope however that it is clear enough now.

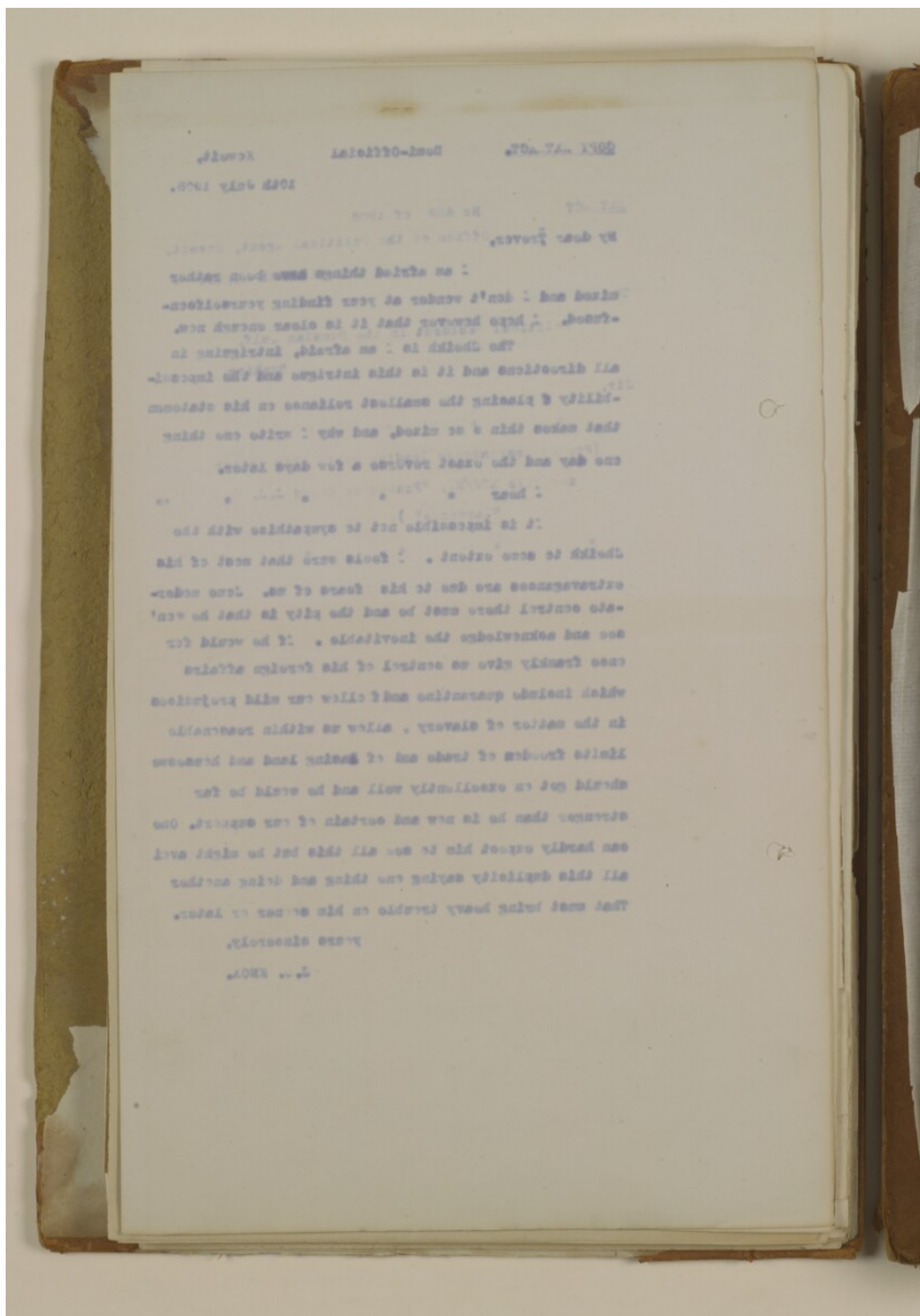
The Sheikh is I am afraid, intriguing in all directions and it is this intrigue and the impossibility of placing the smallest reliance on his statements that makes things so mixed, and why I write one thing one day and the exact reverse a few days later.

I hear * * * * *

It is impossible not to sympathize with the Sheikh to some extent. I feel sure that most of his extravagances are due to his fears of us. Some moderate control there must be and the pity is that he won't see and acknowledge the inevitable. If he would for once frankly give us control of his foreign affairs which include quarantine and follow our mild prejudices in the matter of slavery, allow us within reasonable limits freedom of trade and of basing land and houses we should get on excellently well and he would be far stronger than he is now and certain of our support. One can hardly expect him to see all this but he might avoid all this duplicity saying one thing and doing another. That must bring heavy trouble on him sooner or later.

yours sincerely,

S. G. KNOX.





(45) 44.
63

EXTRACT

No 469 of 1908

Office of the Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit 19th August 08

To,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

Sir,

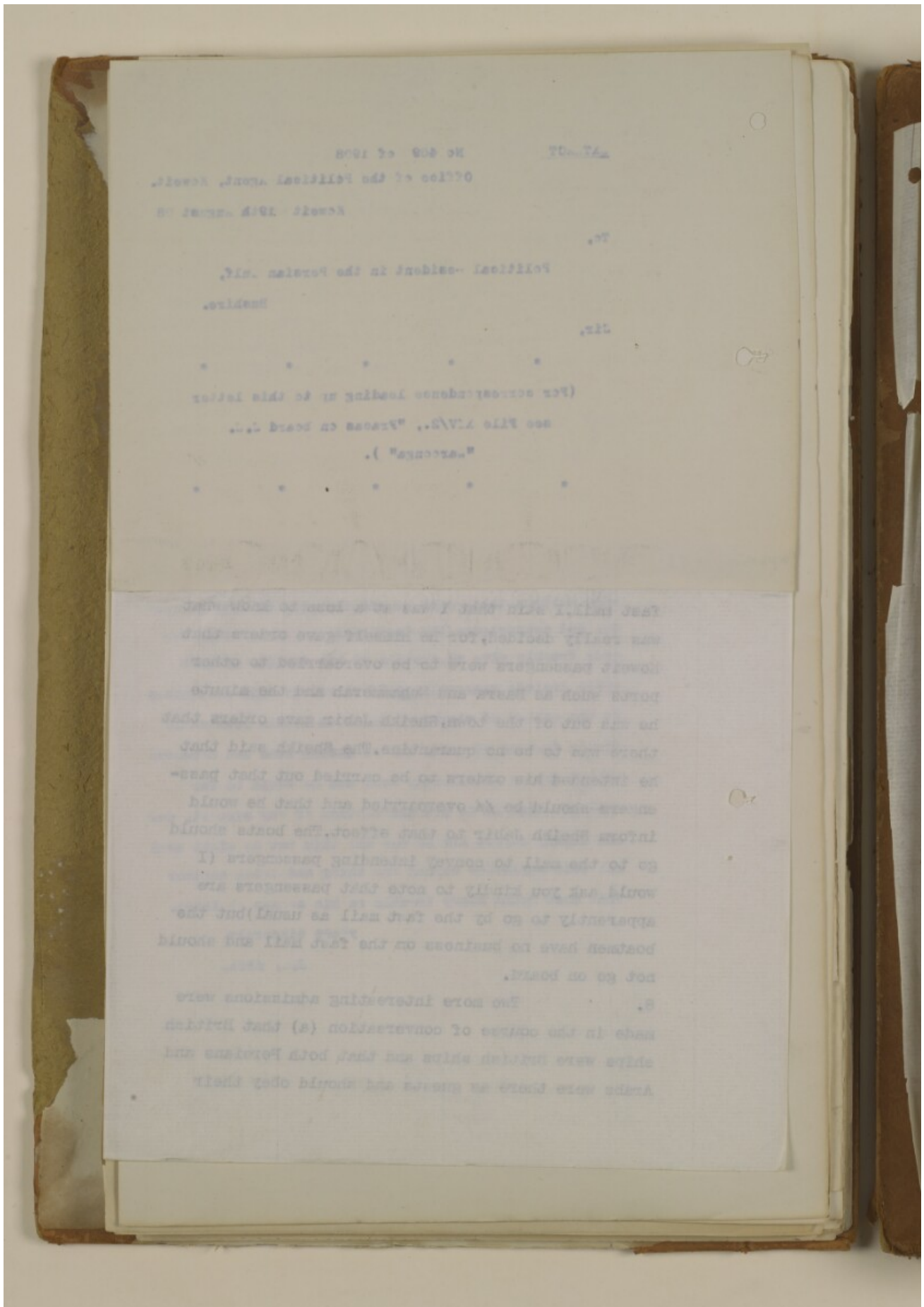
* * * * *

(For correspondence leading up to this letter
see File XIV/2., "Fracas on board J.J.
"Warconga").

* * * * *

7. I then asked the Sheikh for a definite statement on the subject of quarantine for the next fast mail. I said that I was at a loss to know what was really decided, for he himself gave orders that Koweit passengers were to be overcarried to other ports such as Basra and Muhammerah and the minute he was out of the town, Sheikh Jabir gave orders that there was to be no quarantine. The Sheikh said that he intended his orders to be carried out that passengers should be ~~go~~ overcarried and that he would inform Sheikh Jabir to that effect. The boats should go to the mail to convey intending passengers (I would ask you kindly to note that passengers are apparently to go by the fast mail as usual) but the boatmen have no business on the fast mail and should not go on board.

8. Two more interesting admissions were made in the course of conversation (a) that British ships were British ships and that both Persians and Arabs were there as guests and should obey their

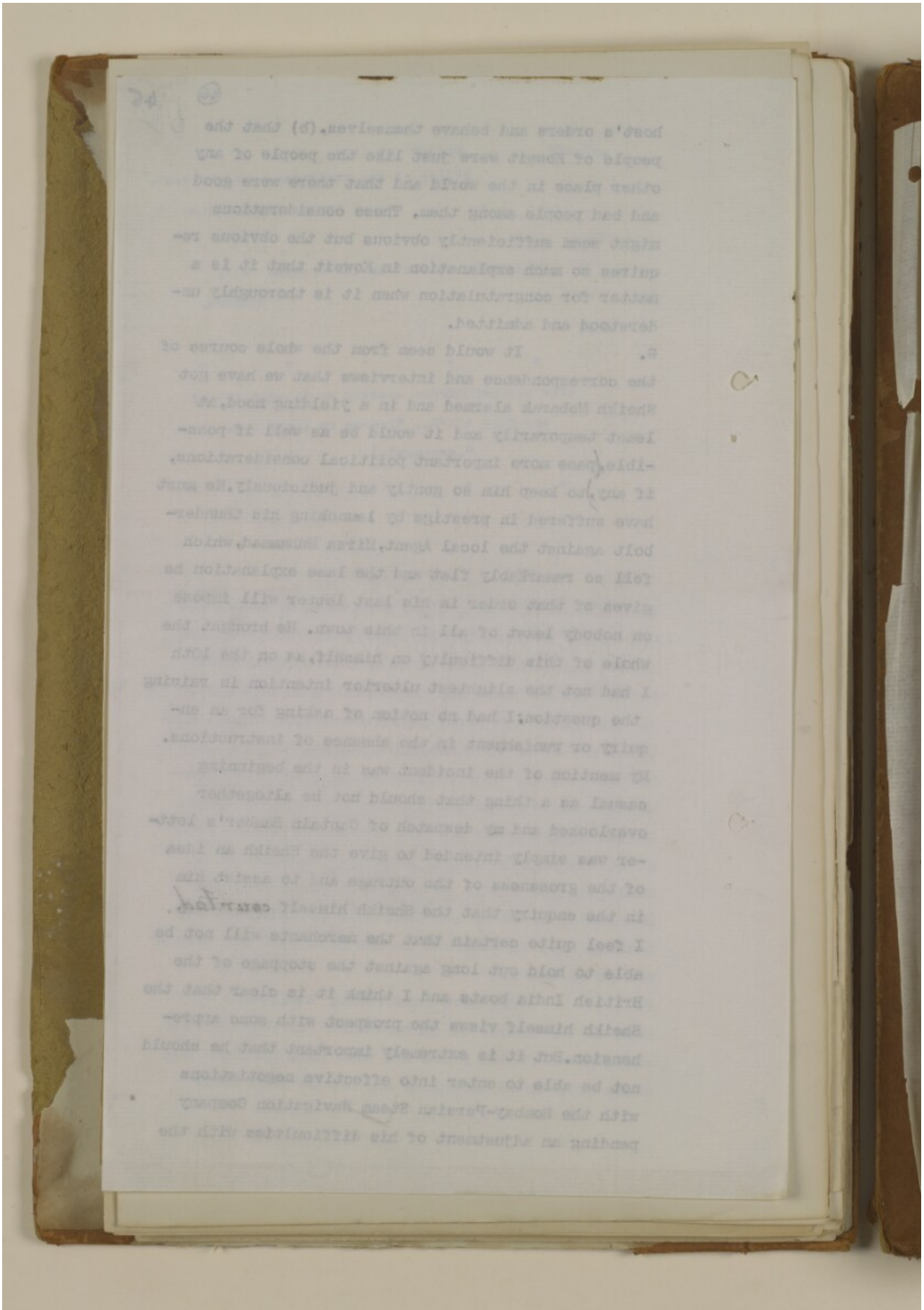




(46) 45

host's orders and behave themselves, (b) that the people of Koweit were just like the people of any other place in the world and that there were good and bad people among them. These considerations might seem sufficiently obvious but the obvious requires so much explanation in Koweit that it is a matter for congratulation when it is thoroughly understood and admitted.

9. It would seem from the whole course of the correspondence and interviews that we have got Sheikh Mobarak alarmed and in a yielding mood, at least temporarily and it would be as well if possible, to keep him so gently and judiciously. He must have suffered in prestige by launching his thunderbolt against the local Agent, Mirza Muhammad, which fell so remarkably flat and the lame explanation he gives of that order in his last letter will impose on nobody least of all in this town. He brought the whole of this difficulty on himself, as on the 10th I had not the slightest ulterior intention in raising the question; I had no notion of asking for an enquiry or punishment in the absence of instructions. My mention of the incident was in the beginning casual as a thing that should not be altogether overlooked and my despatch of Captain Bamber's letter was simply intended to give the Sheikh an idea of the grossness of the outrage and to assist him in the enquiry that the Sheikh himself *courted*. I feel quite certain that the merchants will not be able to hold out long against the stoppage of the British India boats and I think it is clear that the Sheikh himself views the prospect with some apprehension. But it is extremely important that he should not be able to enter into effective negotiations with the Bombay-Persian Steam Navigation Company pending an adjustment of his difficulties with the





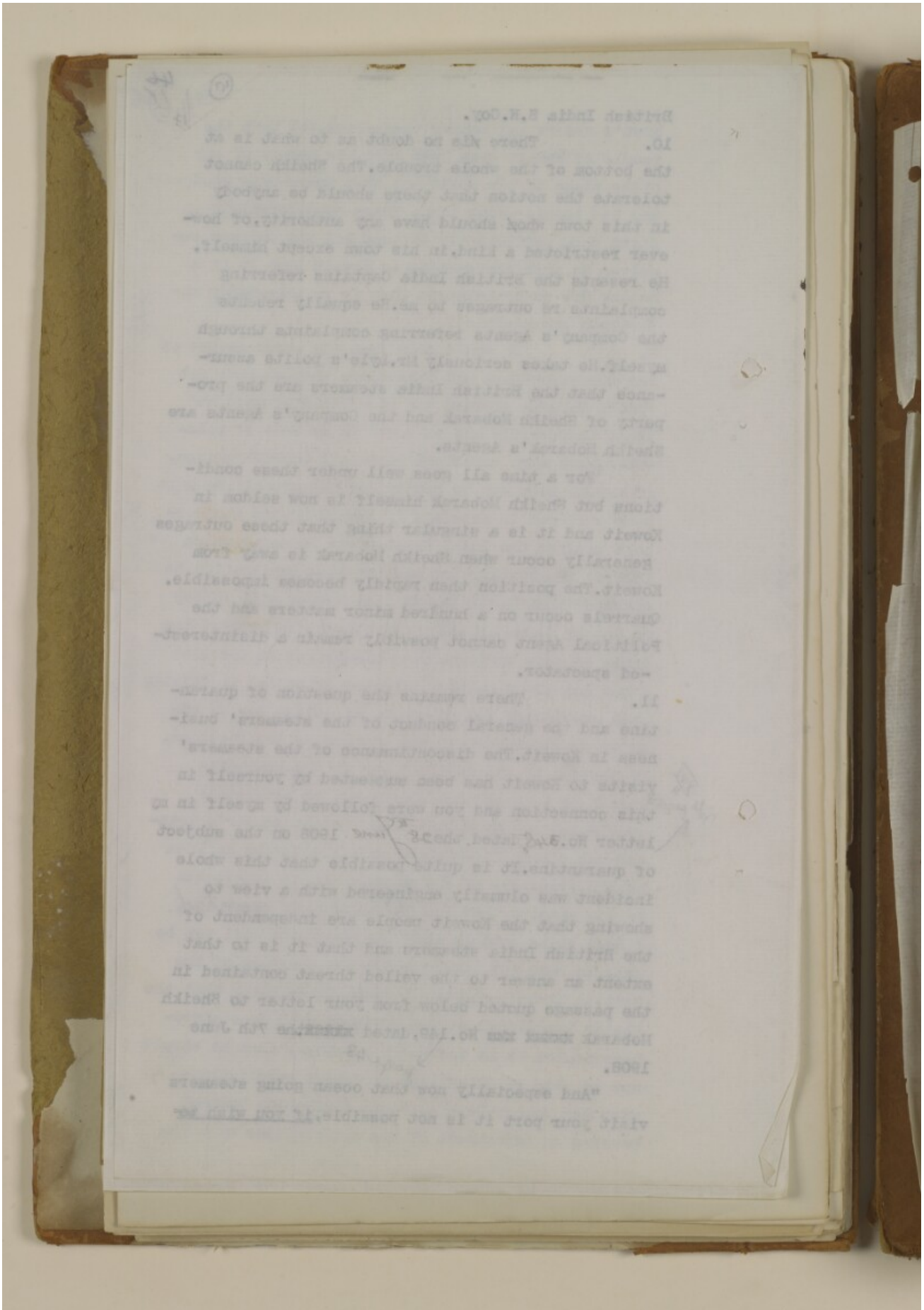
British India S.N.Coy.

10. There is no doubt as to what is at the bottom of the whole trouble. The Sheikh cannot tolerate the notion that there should be anybody in this town whom should have any authority, of however restricted a kind, in his town except himself. He resents the British India Captains referring complaints re outrages to me. He equally resents the Company's Agents referring complaints through myself. He takes seriously Mr. Igle's polite assurance that the British India steamers are the property of Sheikh Mobarak and the Company's Agents are Sheikh Mobarak's Agents.

For a time all goes well under these conditions but Sheikh Mobarak himself is now seldom in Koweit and it is a singular thing that these outrages generally occur when Sheikh Mobarak is away from Koweit. The position then rapidly becomes impossible. Quarrels occur on a hundred minor matters and the Political Agent cannot possibly remain a disinterested spectator.

11. There remains the question of quarantine and the general conduct of the steamers' business in Koweit. The discontinuance of the steamers' visits to Koweit has been suggested by yourself in this connection and you were followed by myself in my letter No. 348, dated the 28th June 1908 on the subject of quarantine. It is quite possible that this whole incident was clumsily engineered with a view to showing that the Koweit people are independent of the British India steamers and that it is to that extent an answer to the veiled threat contained in the passage quoted below from your letter to Sheikh Mobarak dated the 14th June, dated ~~the 14th~~ the 7th June 1908.

"And especially now that ocean going steamers visit your port it is not possible, if you wish to



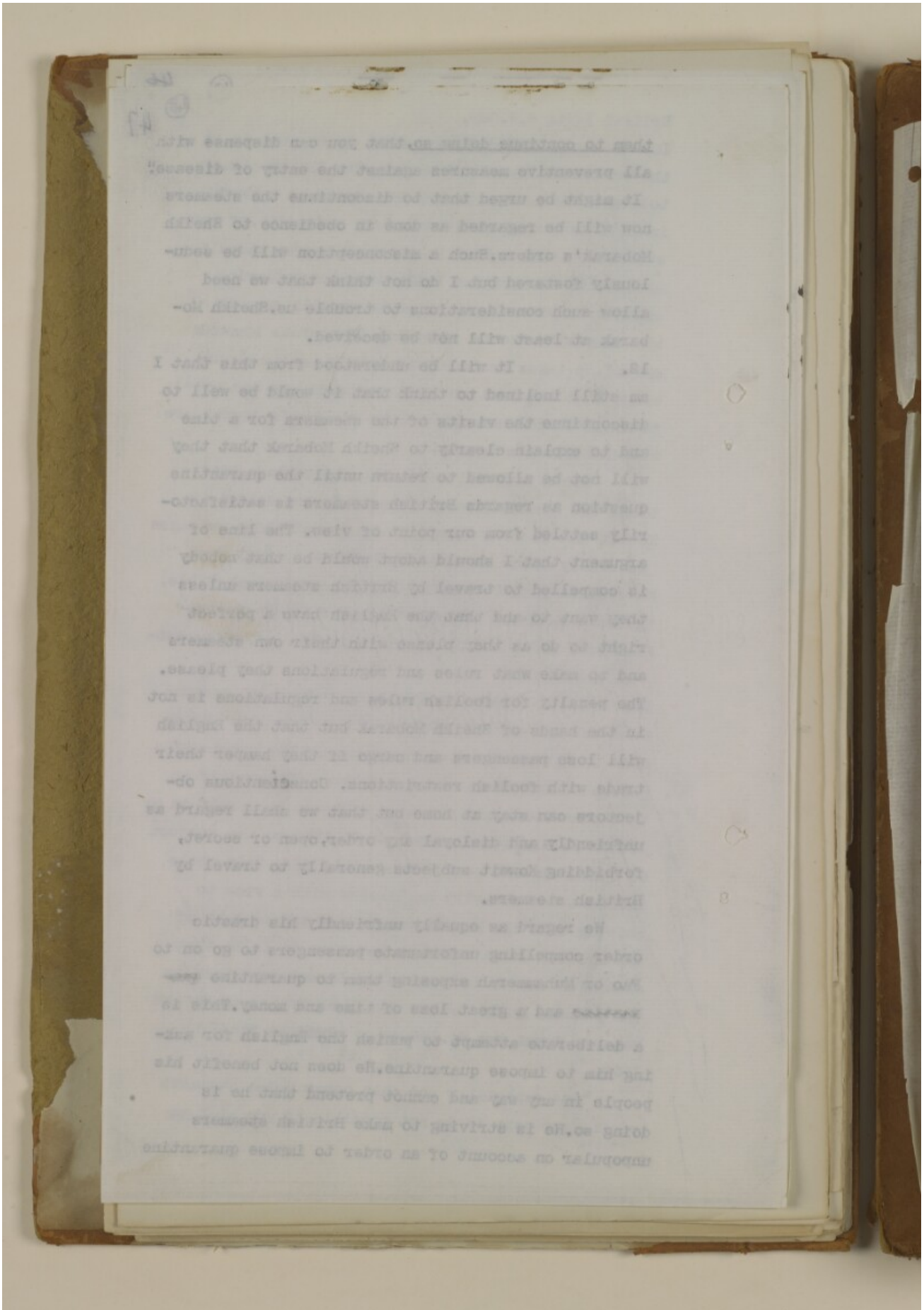


48 47
them to continue doing so, that you can dispense with all preventive measures against the entry of disease."

It might be urged that to discontinue the steamers now will be regarded as done in obedience to Sheikh Mobarak's orders. Such a misconception will be sedulously fostered but I do not think that we need allow such considerations to trouble us. Sheikh Mobarak at least will not be deceived.

12. It will be understood from this that I am still inclined to think that it would be well to discontinue the visits of the steamers for a time and to explain clearly to Sheikh Mobarak that they will not be allowed to return until the quarantine question as regards British steamers is satisfactorily settled from our point of view. The line of argument that I should adopt would be that nobody is compelled to travel by British steamers unless they want to and that the English have a perfect right to do as they please with their own steamers and to make what rules and regulations they please. The penalty for foolish rules and regulations is not in the hands of Sheikh Mobarak but that the English will lose passengers and cargo if they hamper their trade with foolish restrictions. Conscientious objectors can stay at home but that we shall regard as unfriendly and disloyal any order, open or secret, forbidding Koweit subjects generally to travel by British steamers.

We regard as equally unfriendly his drastic order compelling unfortunate passengers to go on to Fao or Muhammerah exposing them to quarantine ~~quarantine~~ and a great loss of time and money. This is a deliberate attempt to punish the English for asking him to impose quarantine. He does not benefit his people in any way and cannot pretend that he is doing so. He is striving to make British steamers unpopular on account of an order to impose quarantine

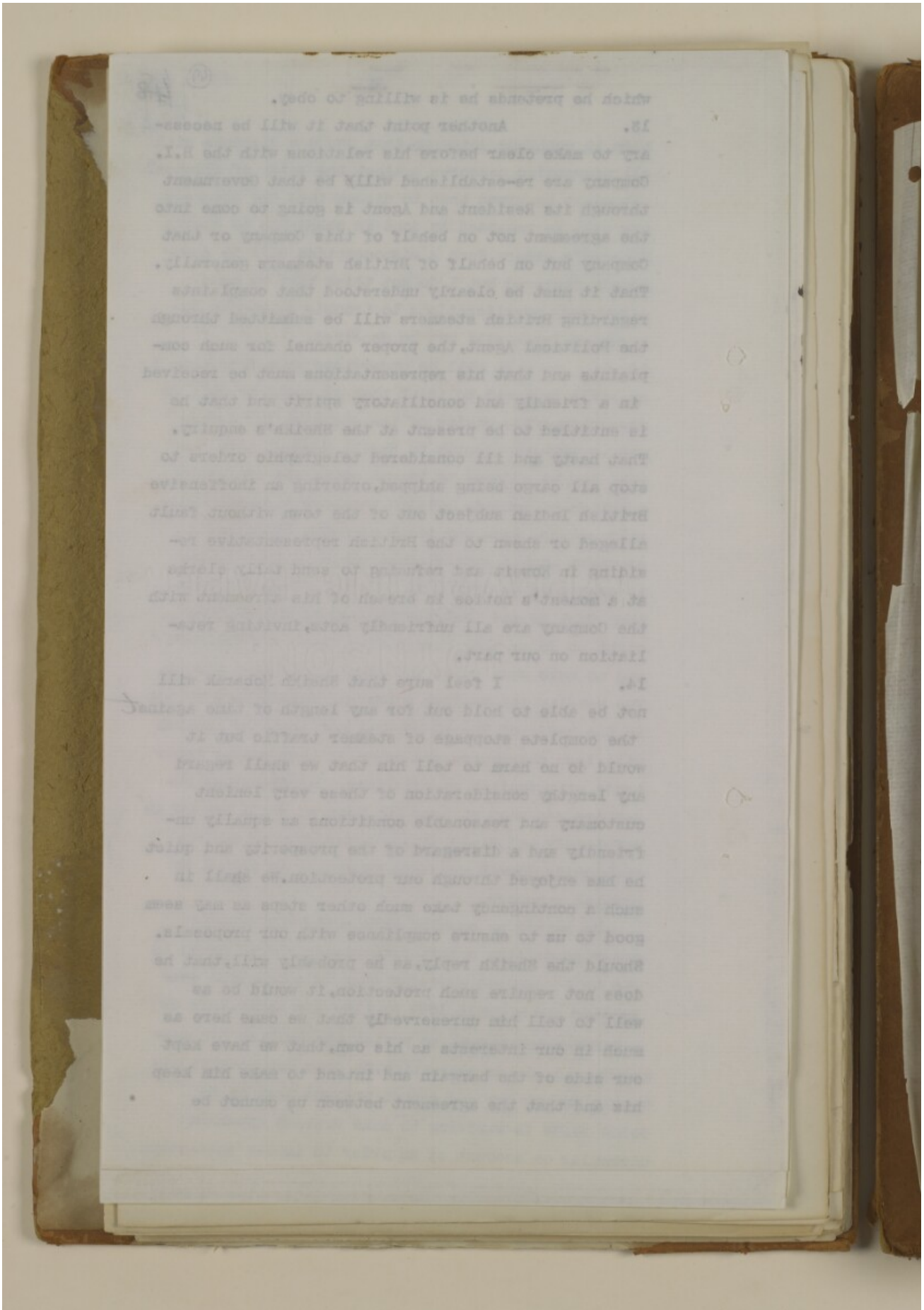




which he pretends he is willing to obey. (49) 48

13. Another point that it will be necessary to make clear before his relations with the B.I. Company are re-established will be that Government through its Resident and Agent is going to come into the agreement not on behalf of this Company or that Company but on behalf of British steamers generally. That it must be clearly understood that complaints regarding British steamers will be submitted through the Political Agent, the proper channel for such complaints and that his representations must be received in a friendly and conciliatory spirit and that he is entitled to be present at the Sheikh's enquiry. That hasty and ill considered telegraphic orders to stop all cargo being shipped, ordering an inoffensive British Indian subject out of the town without fault alleged or shewn to the British representative residing in Koweit and refusing to send tally clerks at a moment's notice in breach of his agreement with the Company are all unfriendly acts, inviting retaliation on our part.

14. I feel sure that Sheikh Mobarak will not be able to hold out for any length of time against the complete stoppage of steamer traffic but it would do no harm to tell him that we shall regard any lengthy consideration of these very lenient customary and reasonable conditions as equally unfriendly and a disregard of the prosperity and quiet he has enjoyed through our protection. We shall in such a contingency take such other steps as may seem good to us to ensure compliance with our proposals. Should the Sheikh reply, as he probably will, that he does not require such protection, it would be as well to tell him unreservedly that we came here as much in our interests as his own, that we have kept our side of the bargain and intend to make him keep his and that the agreement between us cannot be





broken except with our consent which we shall give
when and if it suits us and not Sheikh Mobarak.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. ...

Major,

Political Agent, Koweit.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter
No. 47, dated 15th August 1903, on the subject of the "Barouge"
No. 47, and in telegraphing the gist of it to the Resident.

Major Sir telegraphed the gist of your letter No. 47
dated 15th August 1903 to the Government of India and received
the reply of the 1st of September 1903.

In answer to the question of suspending the mail
service I replied, for your information, the point whether it
would not be best to stop it for good. The British India
Company don't like it; but you get your steam launch you will
be able to send her away when you feel the mail and will
suffer no inconvenience. But the fact mail service to be
stopped the quarantine service would sink into insignificance
as the only British India ships which would
be able to go down the coast.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

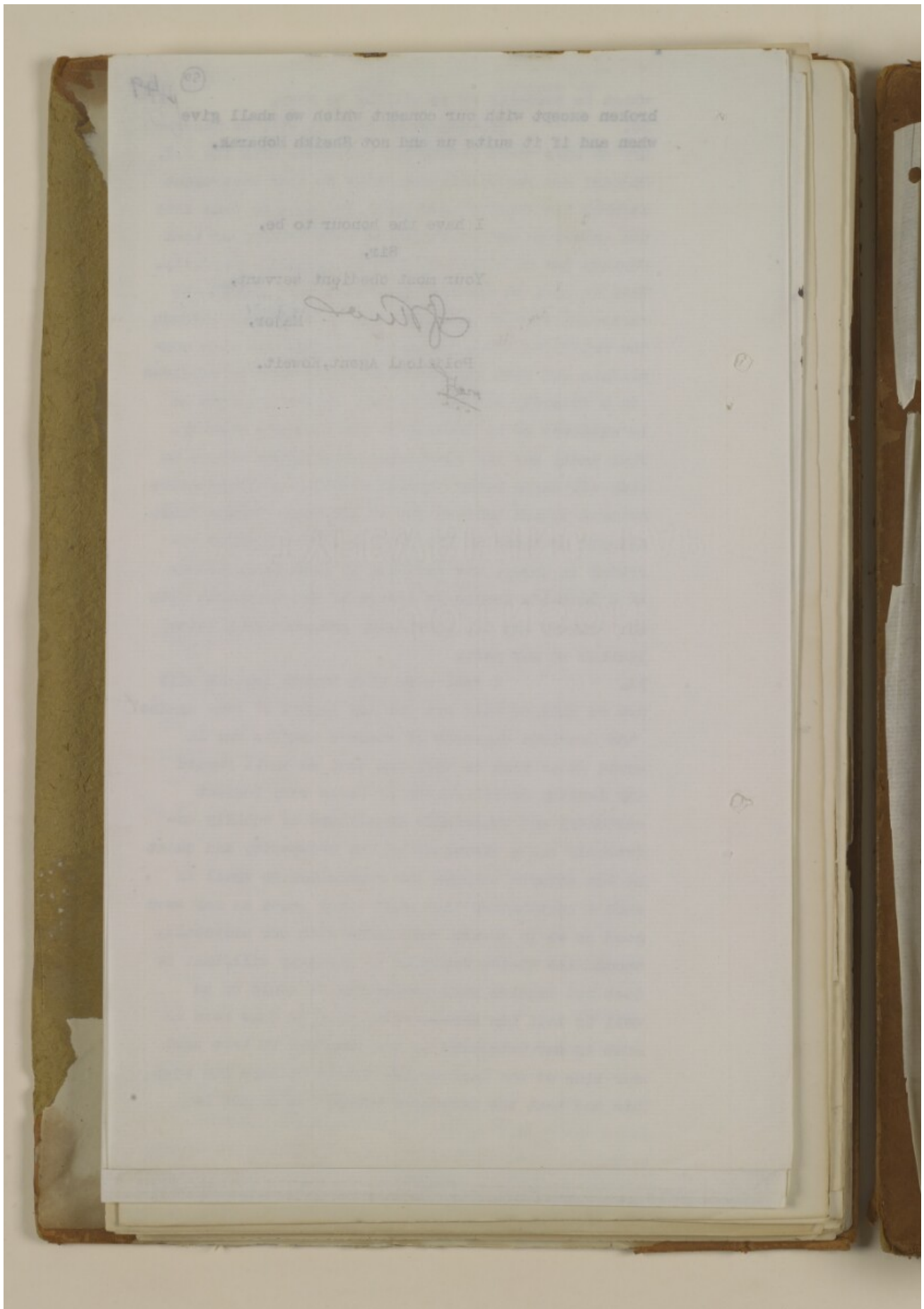
Your most obedient servant,

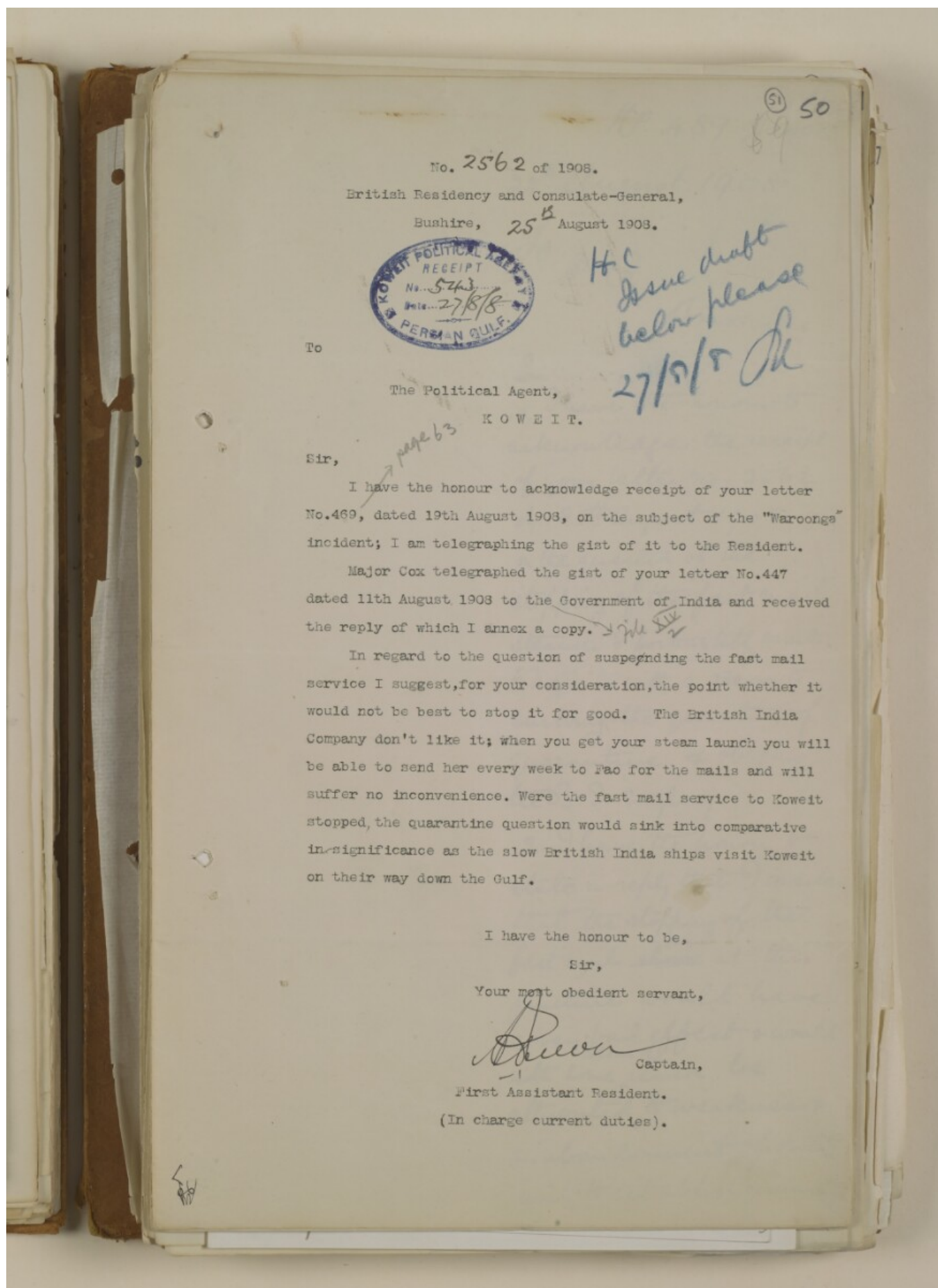
... ..

Respect,

First Assistant Secretary.

(In charge of the office.)





No. 2562 of 1903.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 25th August 1903.



To

The Political Agent,
KOWEIT.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 469, dated 19th August 1903, on the subject of the "Warcoona" incident; I am telegraphing the gist of it to the Resident.

Major Cox telegraphed the gist of your letter No. 447 dated 11th August 1903 to the Government of India and received the reply of which I annex a copy. *file 51/2*

In regard to the question of suspending the fast mail service I suggest, for your consideration, the point whether it would not be best to stop it for good. The British India Company don't like it; when you get your steam launch you will be able to send her every week to Fao for the mails and will suffer no inconvenience. Were the fast mail service to Koweit stopped, the quarantine question would sink into comparative insignificance as the slow British India ships visit Koweit on their way down the Gulf.

I have the honour to be,

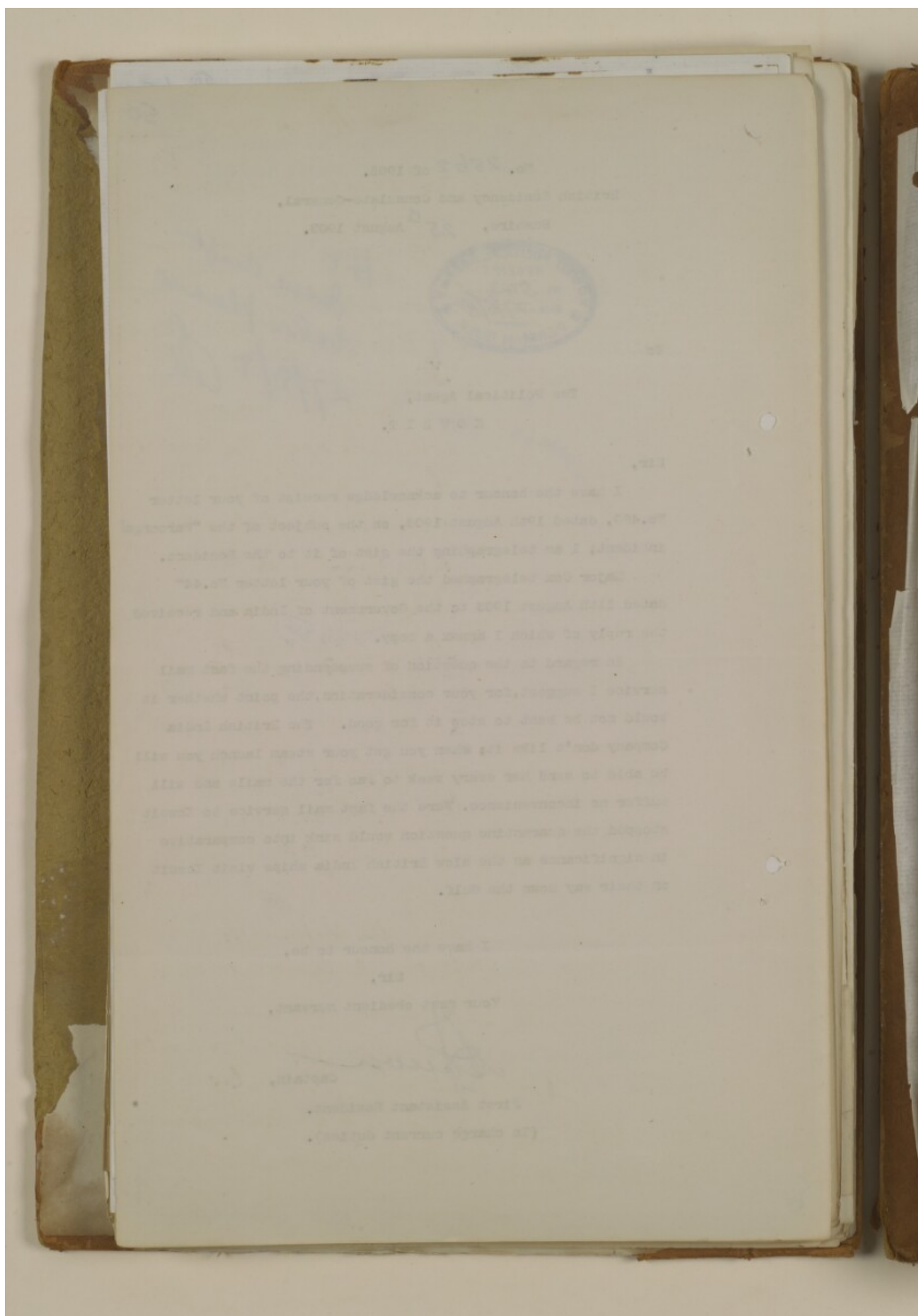
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain,

First Assistant Resident.

(In charge current duties).





No. 489 of 1908 ^{(52) 51}

28th August 1908.

To P. R.

Bristol.

Sir

page 69 → I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter no. 2662 d. 25th August 1908 on the question of the stopping of the fast mail steamer's fortnightly visits to Koweit with a view to shelving the question of quarantine & obliging the B. D. Company.

2. I have the honor to state in reply that I consider that the stopping of the fast-mails ~~alone~~ ^{only} at this juncture would have a very bad effect & would, with some reason, be attributed to weakness & an abandonment of our wish to establish quarantine



in consequence of the
opposition shown by Sheikh
Mubarak to the measure.

3. The ^{capricious} attitude recently
taken up by Sheikh
Mubarak in this &
other matters does not,
in my opinion, warrant
me in regarding with
any confidence a proposal
to leave Koweit out of
touch with the outer
world for ~~some~~ a fortnight.
At a time, more especially
as we ~~have~~ ^{are} no telegraphic
communication.

4. In any case, it would,
I venture to think, be
advisable to defer the
consideration of this
proposal until such time
as the launch has been
supplied & is in working
order.

5. The stoppage of all
steamers I regard, on the
other hand, as a mild?

PA
what is this word please?
MILD ^{next}



primitive measure ^{by} ⁽³⁾
 calculated, I trust,
 to ensure the return of
 the steamers at no very
 distant date on a far
 more satisfactory footing.
 The stoppage of the slow
 steamers will hit Koweit
 hard whereas both the
 Sheikh & the general
 public will view with
 comparative indifference
 the stoppage of the fast
 mail. I am convinced
 in my ~~own~~ ^{view} of Sheikh
 Noorah's present
 policy as the extravagant
 bluffing of a desperate
 loser by the consideration
 that, if he seriously meant
 to sever his connection
 with the O. I. Co., he would
 have temporised & got
 his cargo actually on board
 the O. I. steamers safely
 landed & then opened
 his campaign.

wood plane?
 D note



6 I feel sure that a little
firmness will secure 73
us all we require in the
matter of both quarantine
& complete & efficient
control of the steamers'
business. I should
greatly regret such a
retrograde step as the
discontinuance of the
fortnightly fast-mail
steamers' visits for good
& all

I have
R



H. M. Consulate General,
Basrah.

53

Sept. 14th 1908.

My dear Knox.

I have felt a good deal the inconveniences of slow communication with you during your difficulties of the past few weeks, and as to the exchange of letters, one was put off by the knowledge that anything sent by post would have become out of date long before its arrival by reason of telegrams which passed in the meanwhile,



⁷⁵
of which you would have
copies from Trevor.

But long ere this your reports
on the several questions now
at issue, Fao properties, Wa-
-roonga incident, Quarantine,
& House Rent, must have been
before Gov^t and they only can
decide what the exigencies
of general politics will admit
of their doing, and what
they will not.

There is no doubt that
Shaikh Mubarak is suff.



uld have
or.

is your reports
questions now
properties, Wa-
t, Quarantine,
must have been
d they only can
the exigencies
ies will admit
and what
doubt that
alk is suff.

ering from mind in the head⁵⁵ 54
and I realise the unpleasant-
ness of your position while
these questions are in pro-
gress, but reading your
reports in batches as I have
had to, it has seemed to
me that while I am perhaps
unable to place myself suf-
ficiently in your shoes, you
on the other hand are
inclined to be too much in-
fected with the atmosphere
of your surroundings; not.



all to be wondered at in
the solitary circumstances
of your billet.

Shaikh Mubarak clearly
deserves a set-down and
you may be right in think-
ing that he would take it
lying down, but there is cer-
tainly some risk involved
in regard to that point, and
at any rate decision on it
can only be taken with
immediate reference to the
degree of urgency which for-
attach at the present mo-
ment, to avoid any incurre-



H.M. Consulate General,
Boschire.

55⁽⁵⁶⁾

-ment issues into him. If
they are prepared to tackle
him, so much the better
for you and me. Mean-
while, and apart from spe-
-cific questions now at issue,
Can you suggest any unobjec-
-tionable means, which without
exalting you before the Koweit
public at the expense of the
Shai'kh, might lend weight
to your ordinary personal
representations, and advice,



When it is possible to give it -
to Sheikh Mubarak?
With Seyyid Ismail of Muscat,
as long as one had sufficient
acquaintance with the language
to express all you wanted to
him, in camera; you could
when he got to know you,
say anything, you liked to
him, & he would do the same,
so long as he trusted you
personally, and he was
fairly amenable to ~~such~~
advice and straight-
talking so offered.



(We give it)
 rak?
 al of Muscat;
 ad sufficient
 th the language
 wanted to
 ; you could
 know you,
 on liked to
 do the same,
 sted you
 d he was
 he to ~~do~~
 strangled-
 red.

But Mubarak is no doubt ⁵⁶
 a much more difficult Cha-
 racter, who apparently never
 quite throws off the mask,
 who will exchange polite cour-
 tesies or platitudes at the
 coffee shop, while his real attitude
 may be anything but friendly.

Do you think, for instance,
 that if you had a better class
 of Dragoman, a Native Agent,
 a man like Agha Badr, for
 instance, it would be any ex-
 tra help? As an Arab, and
 he should be an astute and
 superior one, he could perhaps



acquire means of access to the
Shaykh at times when the
mask was thrown aside,
or could pierce it, on occasion,
where a European could not.

It seems true that Gov. Hill
have to be content under
ordinary circumstances,
with the most that can be
made of the Shaykh, and the
most that can be got out
of him, by his Pol. Agent,
(Resident so far as he comes in)
by personal influence and
representation. Pressure from
above except it be in a
drastic form is not likely



59 58

83



H.M. Consulate General,
Bashire.

58 57

82

to be of any real & permanent help and cannot obviously be employed frequently. It is a very difficult conundrum, and I shall look forward to getting some impressions from you on the subject when things have settled down and you have time.

I am afraid you have had a terribly hot year



at the Gulf; my wife and I
both realise that we do not
love Shiraz, but I cannot
help being thankful that
I brought her up this year.
Hopely, that things are
smoothing out.

Yours sincerely
P. D. Cox

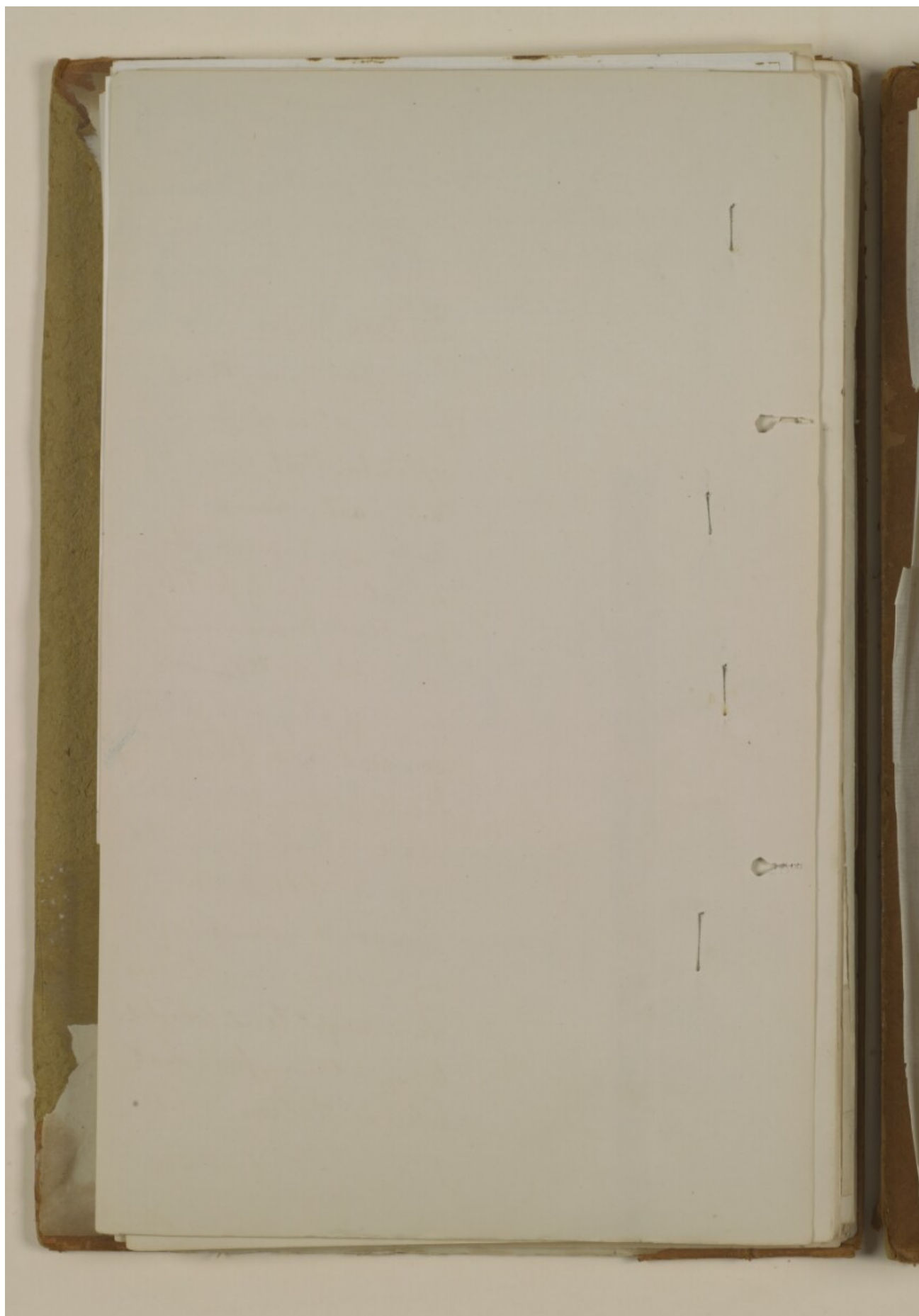


58

83

my wife and I
are that we do not
y, but I cannot
thankful that
her up this year.
at things are
out.

Yours sincerely
P. D. Cox





62/10/08 ⁶⁰ 59
84
To P.R.

My dear Major,

page 94
↑

Very many thanks
^{very kind}
for your letter of the 14th
September that came by
last mail. ~~You & I~~ I
think I quite grasp the
situation clearly put by
you that Government
must choose their own
time, if ~~they ever indeed~~
~~decide to do so~~, for putting
Sheikh Mubarak in his
place & that, until then,
we must defer to him.

You ask if I can suggest
any unobjectionable means
which might lend weight
to my ordinary personal
representations & advice
to Sheikh Mubarak & you



Suggest an Arab assistant,
such as Agha Badar. 85

He could perhaps acquire
means of access to the
Sheikh at times when the
mask was thrown aside
or could pierce it, on
occasion, where a European
could not.

If I may venture to criticise
the above, I would say that
the crux of the problem
is not there exactly. The
mask may deceive & has
undoubtedly deceived me
in the past & will, no doubt,
again in the future but
it only holds for a short
time & then truth is out.
No great harm is done by
the deception. The trouble
is more that Mubarak
goes on sticking to the lie
when he knows perfectly
well that I know all
about it.



nor, do I believe, ^{(61) 60} even
now, that Sheikh M. is
hostile to the British. He
is a good sportsman & bears
no malice.

He has a fairly definite
policy of which the two
guiding principles frequently
conflict, viz.

- (1) friendship with the
British
 - (2) personal glory & aggrand-
isement & a determination
not to come completely
under British influence &
especially not to such an
extent as to weaken his
authority in Koweit.
- Unfortunately, when the
two conflict, the latter
carries it.

I would prefer to state the
problem thus. How are we
to get hold of a man, Arab
or other, who will persuade
an old gentleman who is
utterly selfish, very tenacious



of authority & rather short sighted that he will benefit by entrusting his foreign relations & his relations with British subjects & British protected persons to
 & perhaps I may add that we are people to be
 us humiliated & humoured rather than to be squeezed for
 what he can get out of us.

The only man I know who has any influence over Sh. In at all is Sheikh Khazal of Muhammerah. I don't think that influence is one for good at all. He has taught Kobarak a number of new ways of skinning his people, he flatters his vanity up [&] to the skies & the two are ready to back each other up through thick & thin in any rascality they determine to undertake. This is not the kind of influence we want.

At present I am going
very slow indeed. In
the first place, I am going
to apply for furlough in the
spring & don't feel inclined



to break new ground ^{or} in the absence of special orders & instructions to do more than consolidate the position we have already attained in Koweit.

in two we can do what we please viz. House & Fao; I do not know that our hand is likely to be forced in Q

I do not imagine that any of the four questions you mention are likely to become acute; & I have been ruled out of the B. I. question, which besides seems settling.

In any case, if I get my leave, the question of the appointment of an Arab assistant will be one for my successor, as I will not be likely to move fast. But I might have the working of the first month or so & shall be glad to help it on in any way I can.

One may perhaps get a



little forward in ruling
out people who will be 89
of no use at all. I do
not think that any local
man will be an improve-
ment on my own Koolah.
No Koweiti can stand
up against Sheikh
Kobarak for a moment.

If a foreigner comes,
he must not trade or
be anything but a purely
Government servant or
he will get us into a tangle
trying to protect him
when for is pressing some
measure that Sh. M.
does not like.

One would ^{at first sight} be inclined
to say that a man of Jackson's
type would be exactly what
is required but from what
I have heard of Sheikh
Kobarak's attitude



when he thought that ⁶²
Gaskin had been ⁶³
appointed to replace me,
I am afraid the experiment
would not be a success.

The reason I think was
that where I should find
out one ^{crime} ~~mistake~~ to report
to government, Gaskin
would discover a dozen.

Inobarak will be delighted
if he can get a Political
Agent who will see only his
side of the case, take
no trouble to follow local
thought or feeling & do as
little work as possible.
He will be very civil to
him & all will go very
as a marriage bell until
Inobaraki is assassinated
or the Turks lose patience.
^{As} ~~If~~ the Political Agent
will certainly be an
astute & clever man,



like all the ~~officers in~~
~~our department~~ are, it 91
will be no bad policy
to let Mobarak go on
imagining that he is
~~doing~~ hoodwinking him
while really all he is
doing is "filling up the cup."

The old man told ~~me~~
me the other day in a
somewhat triumphant
tone that "nature was
stronger than education"
by which I gathered that
he meant that his
turbulent ill-disciplined
nature was going to win
the battle over all my good
advice.

In such circumstances,
the underling, Arab or
Jaskan or some one of
that kind would not be
bad for collecting information,
practically evidence, while



the Political Agent ⁶³offered
himself & only appeared ⁶⁴
on state occasions. It is
rather an expensive
arrangement that is all.

^{I am} ~~the are~~ still as far away
the satisfactory solution of
a ~~sever~~ ^{my} problem
& I confess that I do not
see ~~the~~ ^{it} solution. I don't
mind owning that I
have failed; perhaps
my successor will be more
fortunate. He has a fine
tough job before him.
~~It may~~ be a little easier
for him because I have
taught ~~Shakh~~ M. that
there are some

How is Prideaux's
native assistant doing?

Perhaps we could let
this matter lie over a
bit until we can have
a talk on the subject.
I do hope that you will
be able to give us a week.



If all goes well, I shall 93
try to get out of this
in the beginning of November
for a change but never
very far & probably down
the South coast at Shuaiba
or Ras Jilaia. I shall
be very careful to give you
my dates & perhaps you
could pick me & the
wife up in the Laurene
if we are on the sea coast
as we probably shall be.
Of course, if you can
give me your dates,
I shall make a point
of being in. I have
talked of coming here
for a week in the
beginning of November
but I am not sure if
it will come off

Yours sincerely

S. M. A. S.



Confidential

No. 1239 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 23rd May 1909.

W.P.D.S.
JUN 5 - 1909

Fao properties.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, in continuation of this office endorsement No. 3538 dated 19th December 1908.

By Order,

J.S. Crothers

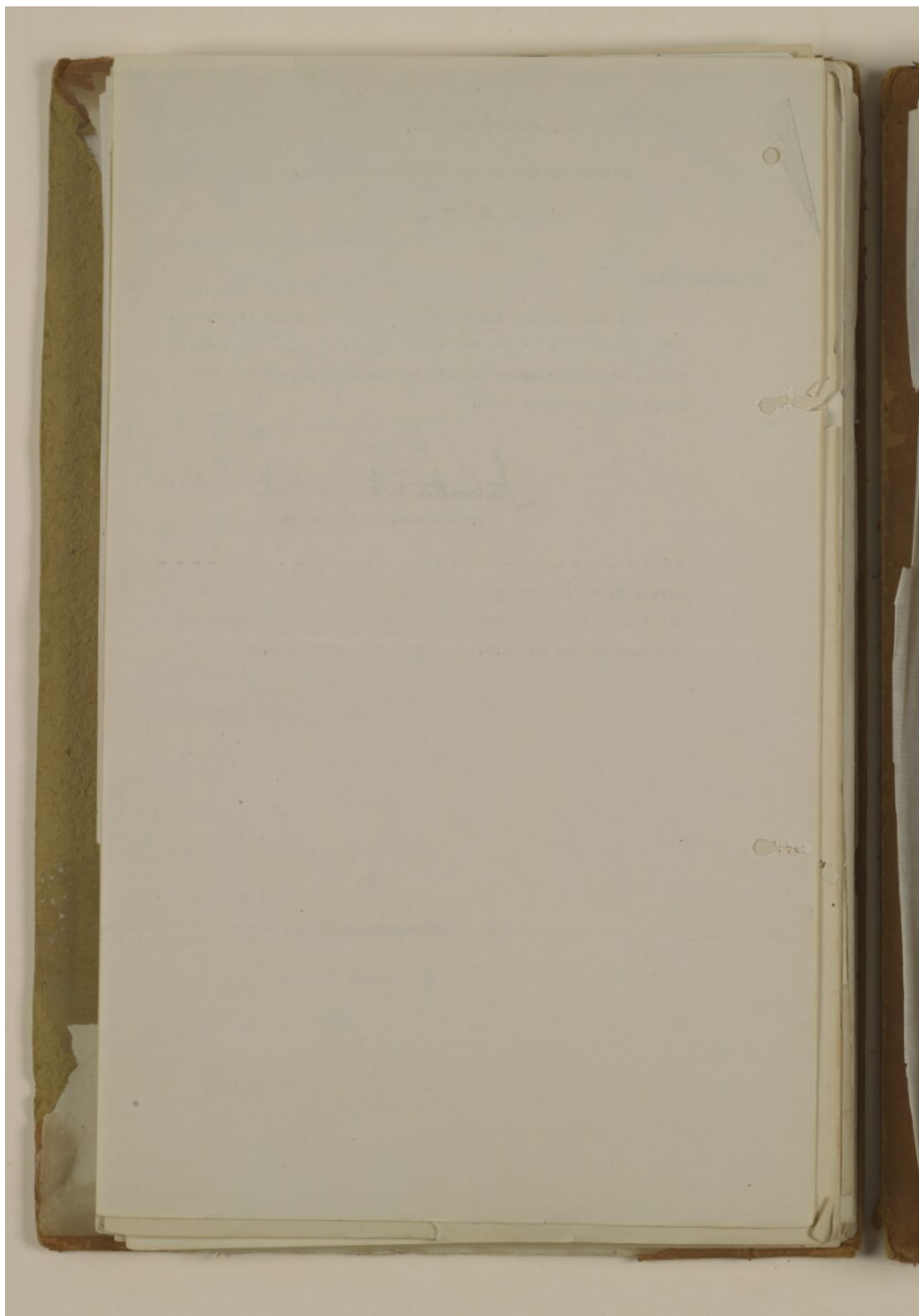
Lieutenant,

Second Assistant Resident.

File VIII
page 200

Letter from Sir Gerard Lowther to Sir Edward Grey No. 138 dated 28th February 1909. (Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 645-E.A., dated 21st April 1909).

below page 95





ASIATIC TURKEY AND ARABIA.

(March 8)

Section 2.

Confidential.

(8991).

No. 1.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey. (Recd. March 8).

No. 138.

Pera, February 28, 1909.

Sir,

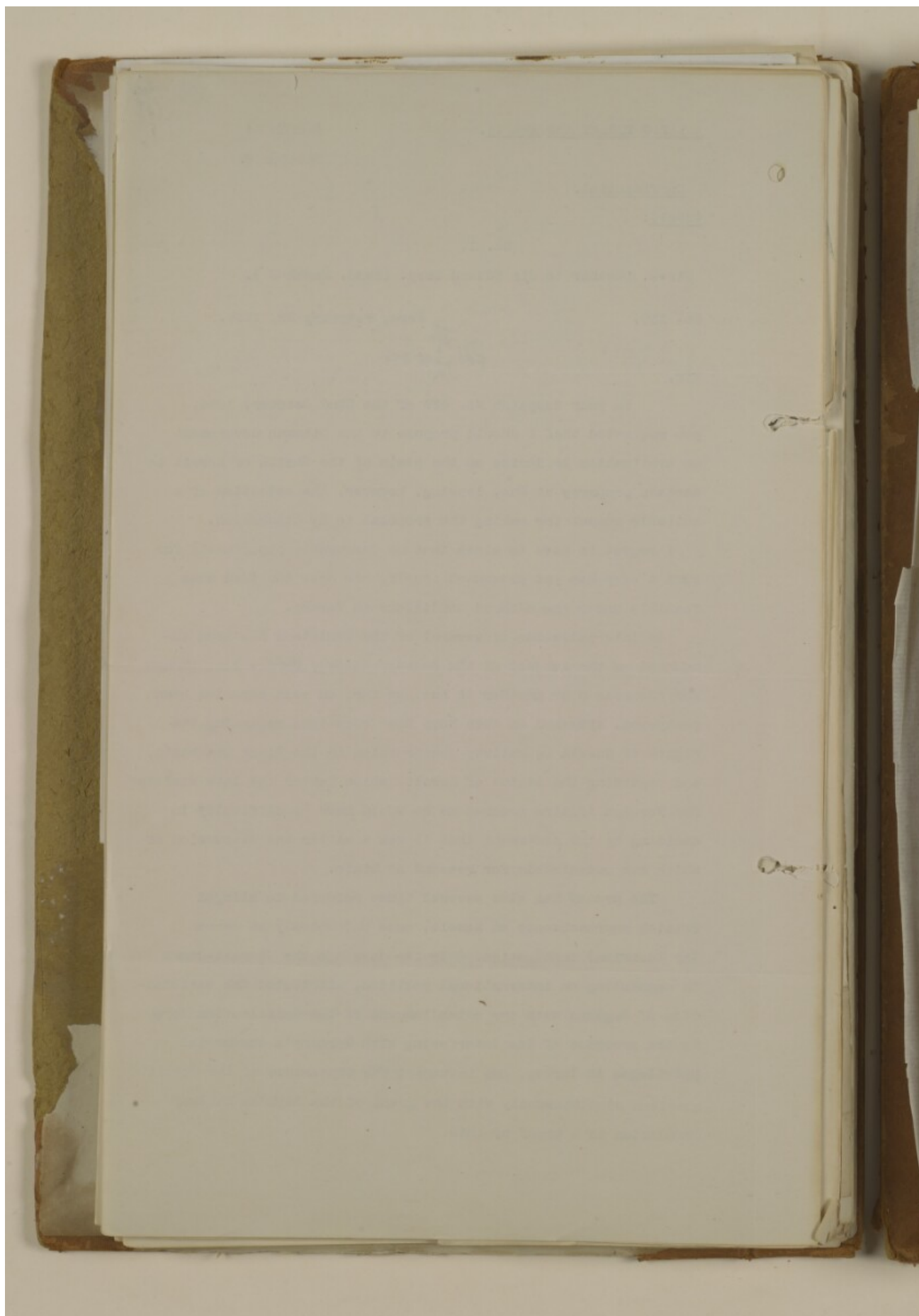
In your despatch No. 439 of the 22nd October, 1908, you requested that I should propose to the Ottoman Government an arbitration to decide on the claim of the Sheikh of Koweit to certain property at Fac, leaving, however, the selection of a suitable moment for making the proposal to my discretion.

I regret to have to state that no favourable opportunity for such a step has yet presented itself, nor does the idea seem feasible under the altered conditions in Turkey.

An interpellation of several of the Ministers has been announced on the subject of the Baghdad Railway Concession, though for one reason or another it has, so far, on each occasion been postponed. Attached to this have been questions regarding the rights of Russia to railway construction in the Black Sea basin, and regarding the status of Koweit, which latter the late Minister for Foreign Affairs assured me he would have no difficulty in avoiding by the statement that it was a matter the discussion of which was undesirable for reasons of State.

The press/ has also several times referred to alleged British encroachments at Koweit, once undoubtedly at German (or Austrian) instigation. Only two days ago the Shura-i-ummet in commenting on international politics, attributed the satisfaction of England with the establishment of the Constitution here to the prospect of its interfering with Germany's commercial privileges in Turkey, and instanced the appearance of the Koweit question simultaneously with the grant of the Baghdad Railway Concession as a proof of this.

It

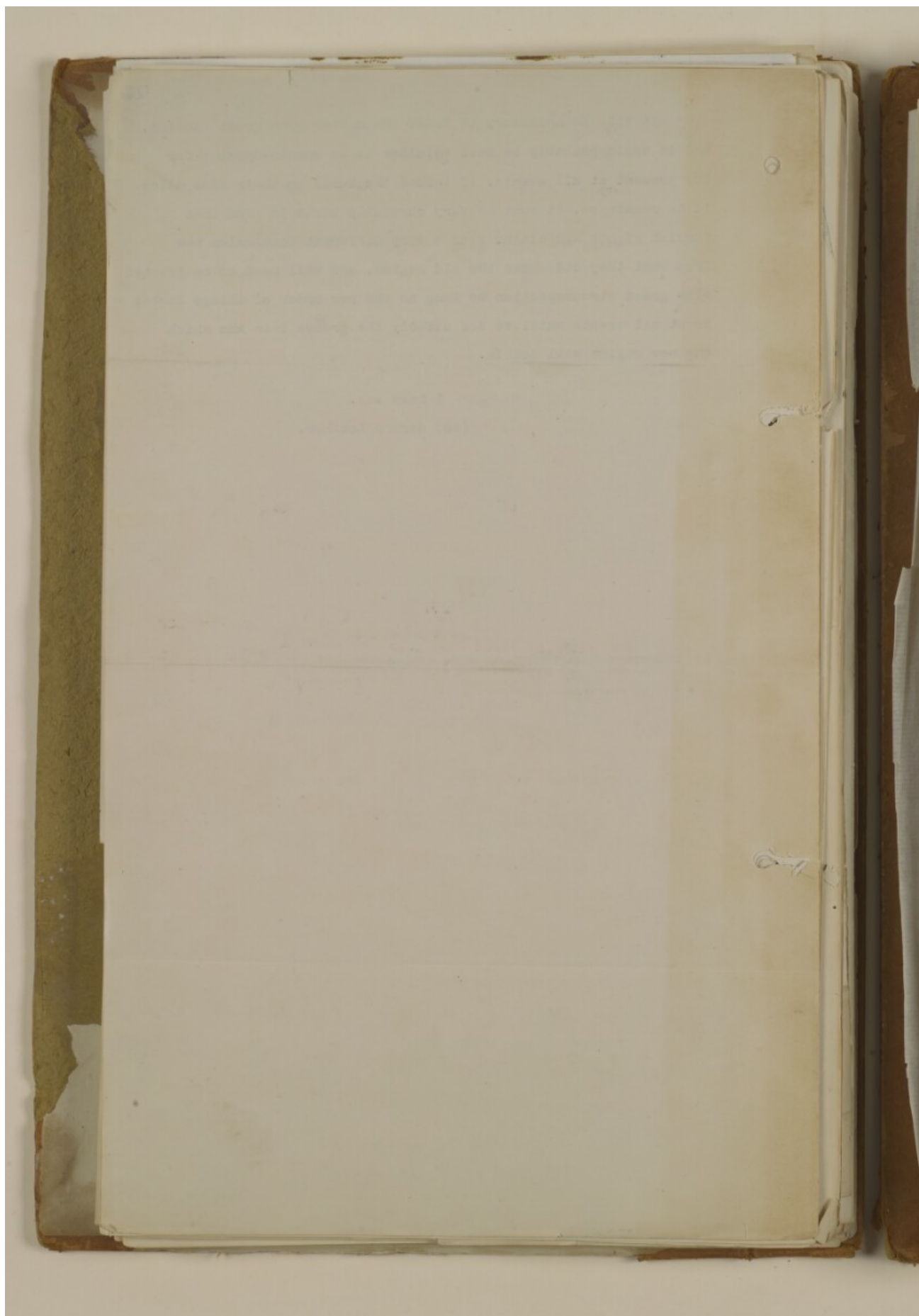




(67) 66
It will be necessary to treat the matter with great caution, and it would probably be best to allow it to remain dormant for the present at all events, if indeed the Turks on their side allow it to remain so. It must be very carefully borne in mind that Turkish rights and claims bear a very different complexion now from what they did under the old regime, and will need to be treated with great circumspection so long as the new order of things lasts, or at all events until we see clearly the groove into xxx which the new regime will settle.

I have etc.

(sd) Gerard Lowther.





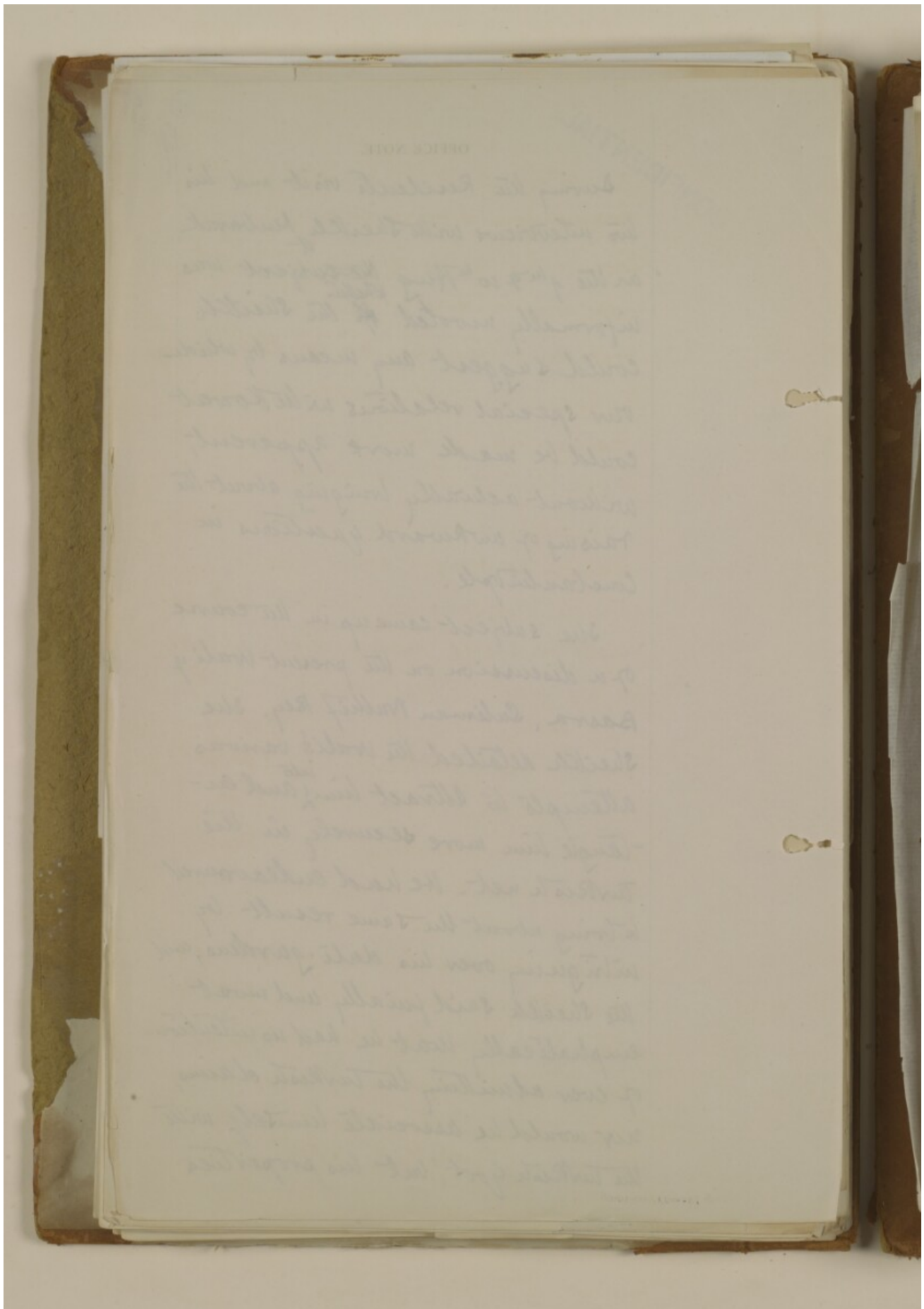
CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE NOTE.

During the Resident's visit and his two interviews with Sheikh Mubarak on the 9th & 10th Aug ^{it} ~~the subject~~ ^{whether} was informally mooted ~~if~~ the Sheikh could suggest any means by which our special relations with Koweit could be made more apparent, without actually bringing about the raising of awkward questions in Constantinople.

The subject came up in the course of a discussion on the present Wali of Basra, Suliman Vahid Bey. The Sheikh detailed the Wali's various attempts to attract him ^{into} and entangle him more securely in the Turkish net. He had endeavoured to bring about the same result by intriguing over his date-gardens, and the Sheikh said finally and most emphatically that he had no intention of ever admitting the Turkish claims, nor would he associate himself with the Turkish Govt, but his properties

S 741-11,000-10-08





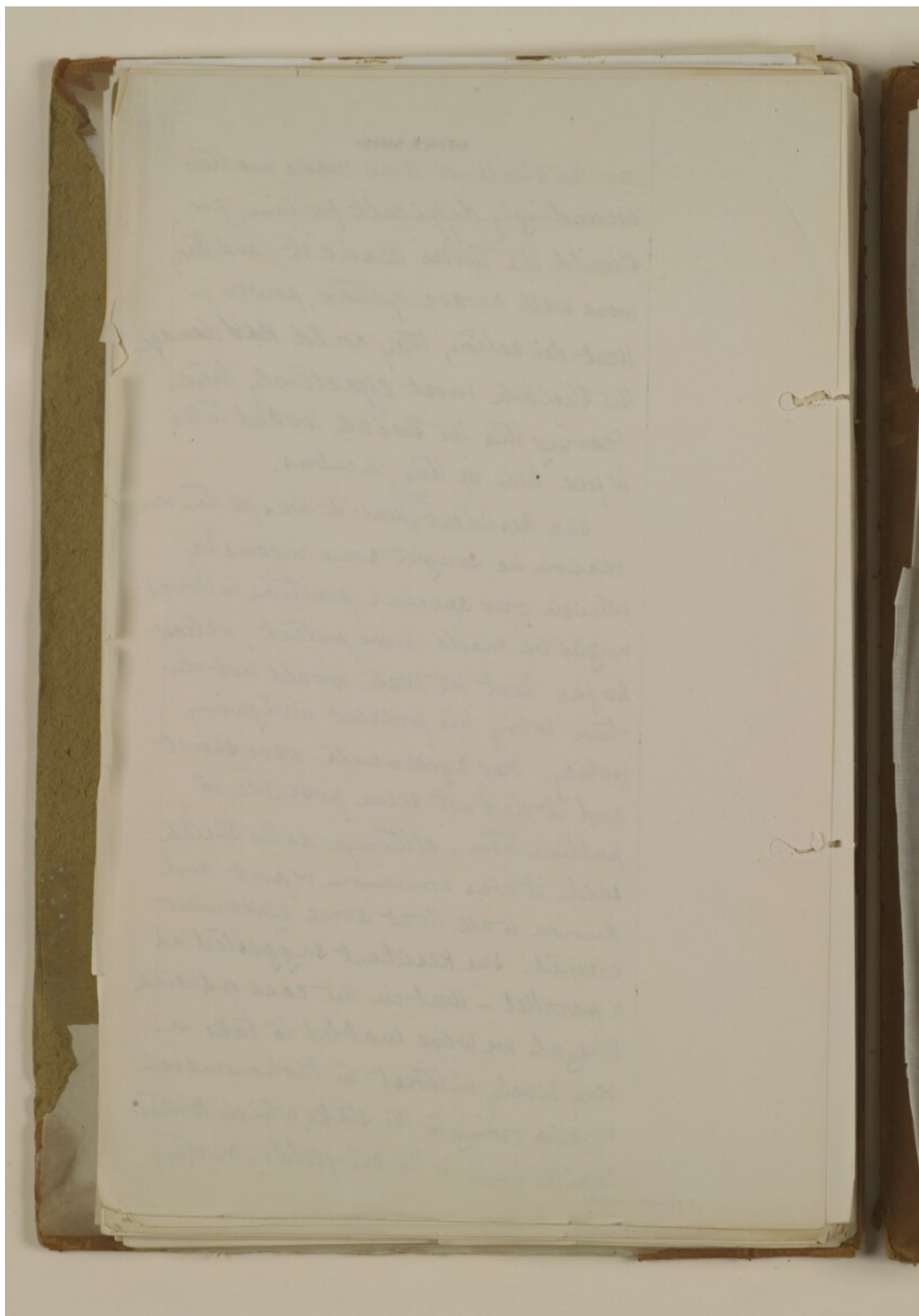
69 90

DIRECT NOTE

on the Shaikh-el-Arab made matters exceedingly difficult for him, for should the Turks desire it, and they were well aware of their power in that direction, they could ~~do~~ damage the Sheikh most effectively there. Fearing this the Sheikh looked to us to free him of this incubus.

The Resident ^{said} that it was for this very reason he sought some means by which our special position in Koweit might be made more patent, at least. So far that the Wali would not venture to try his present intriguing policy. Our agreements were secret and it did not seem possible to publish them, although as the Sheikh said it was common report and known to all that some agreement existed. The Resident suggested as a parallel - that in the case of Sheikh Khazal we were enabled to take a very lively interest in Mohammerah affairs owing to the stake which British Capital had in the oil-fields. Nothing

S 741-11/00-10-68





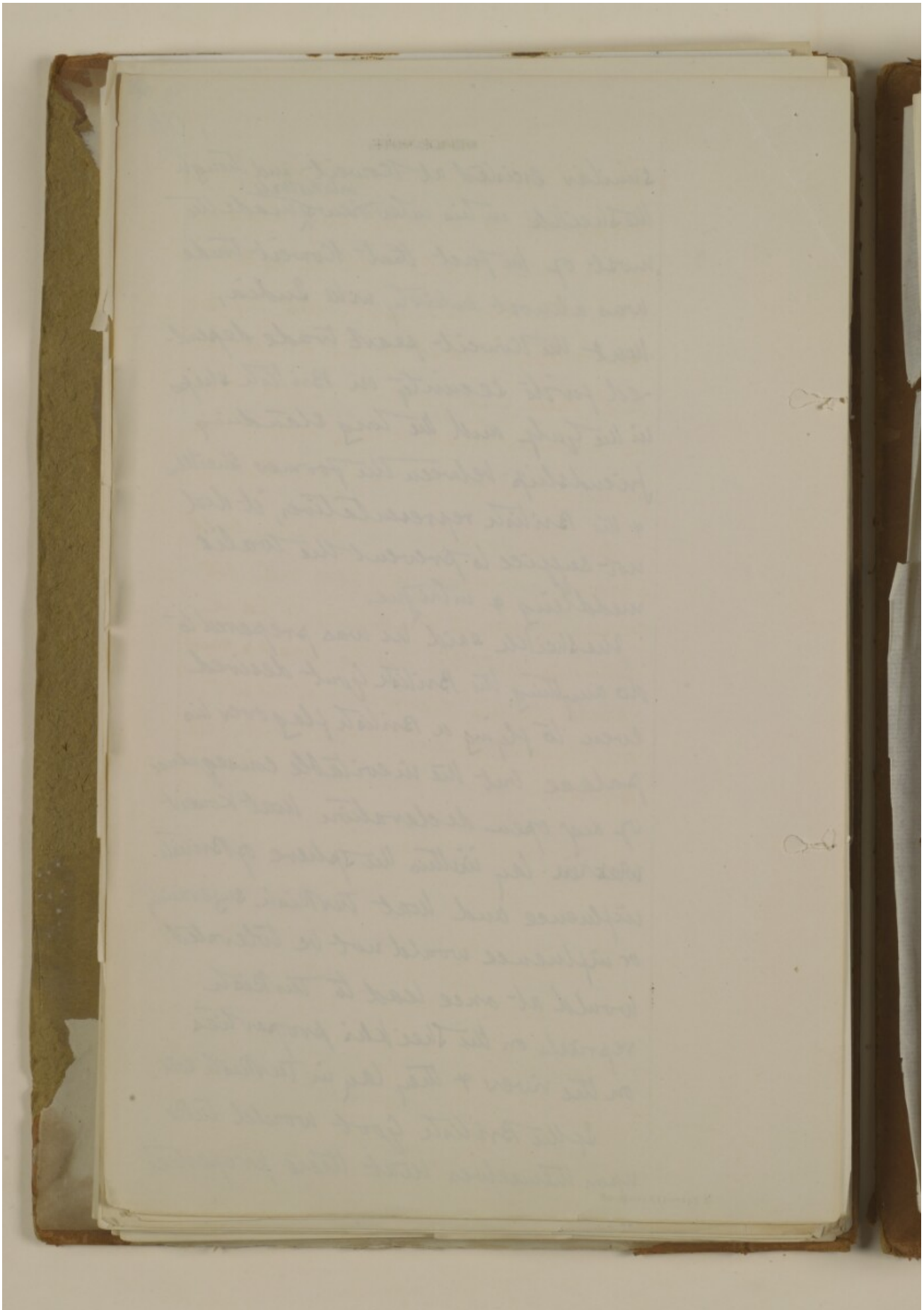
OFFICE NOTE.

70 69
99
similar existed at Koweit - and though the Sheikh in his interview ^{with the Wali} made the most of the fact that Koweit trade was almost entirely with India, that the Koweit pearl trade depended for its security on British ships in the Gulf and the long standing friendships between the former Sheikhs & the British representatives, it did not suffice to prevent the Wali's meddling & intrigue.

The Sheikh said he was prepared to do anything the British Govt desired even to flying a British flag over his palace but the inevitable consequence of any open declaration that Koweit was in lay within the sphere of British influence and that Turkish suzerainty or influence would not be tolerated would at once lead to Turkish reprisals on the Sheikh's properties on the river & they lay in Turkish soil.

If the British Govt would take upon themselves that these properties

S 741-11,000-10-08





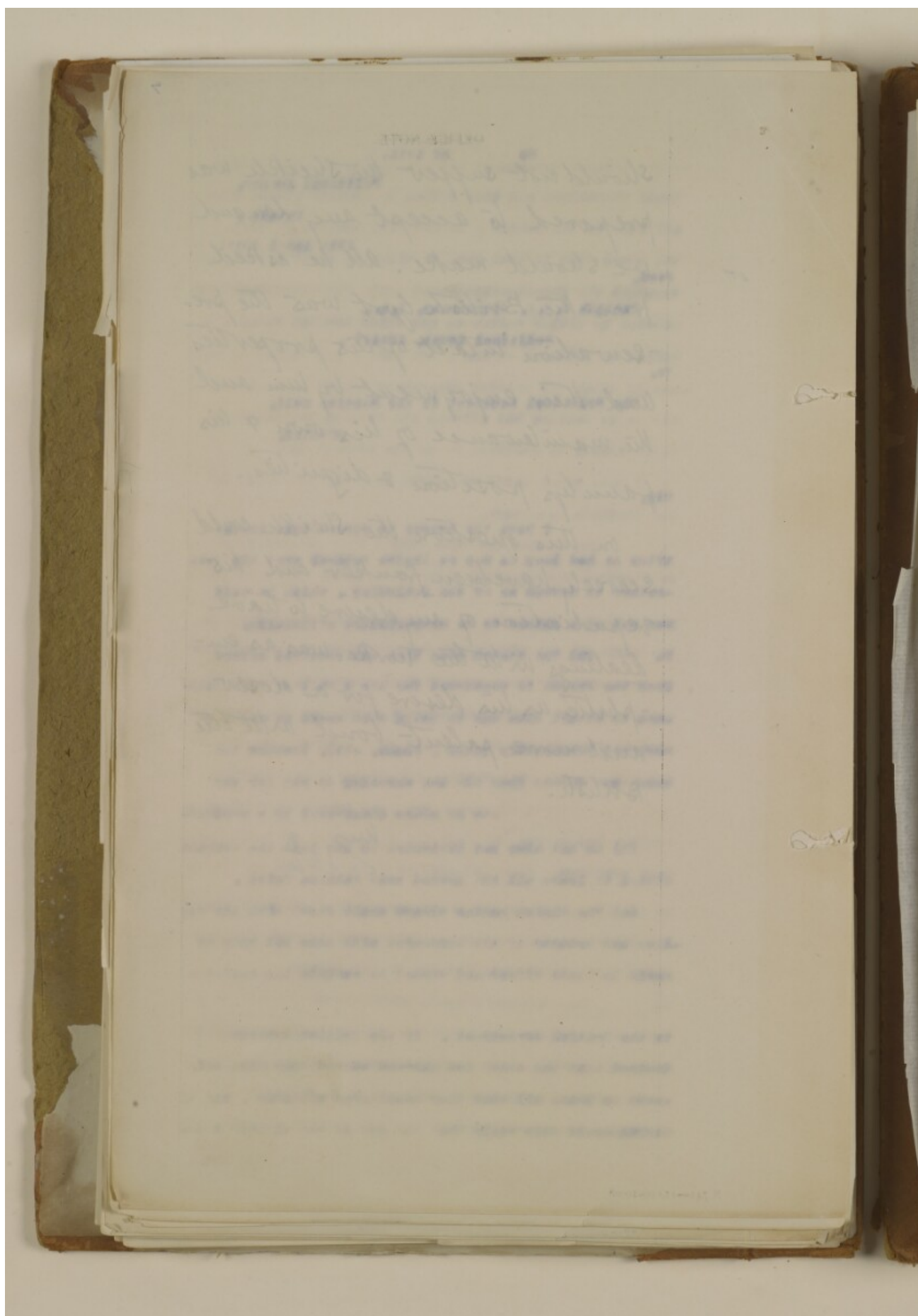
71 70
150
MURCHISON.

should not suffer the Sheikh was prepared to accept any demand we should make. All he asked from the British Govt was the preservation intact of his properties and their enjoyment by him and the maintenance of his own & his family's position & dignities.

on this question the Sheikh could scarcely have been fonder and his repudiation of any desire to have dealings with the Turks was as emphatic as his desire for a closer and more parent bond with the British.

Aug 12⁸/₁₀.

S 741-11/00-10-08





CONFIDENTIAL

(12) 71

No C.23 of 1911.

Political Agency,

Kuwait .

19th April 1911.

From,

Captain W.E.I. Shakespear, I.A.

Political Agent, KUWAIT .

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

BUSHIRE.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that to-day after he had been to see me Sheikh Mubarak sent his Secretary to inform me of the following , which he said was not of a nature to be communicated officially.

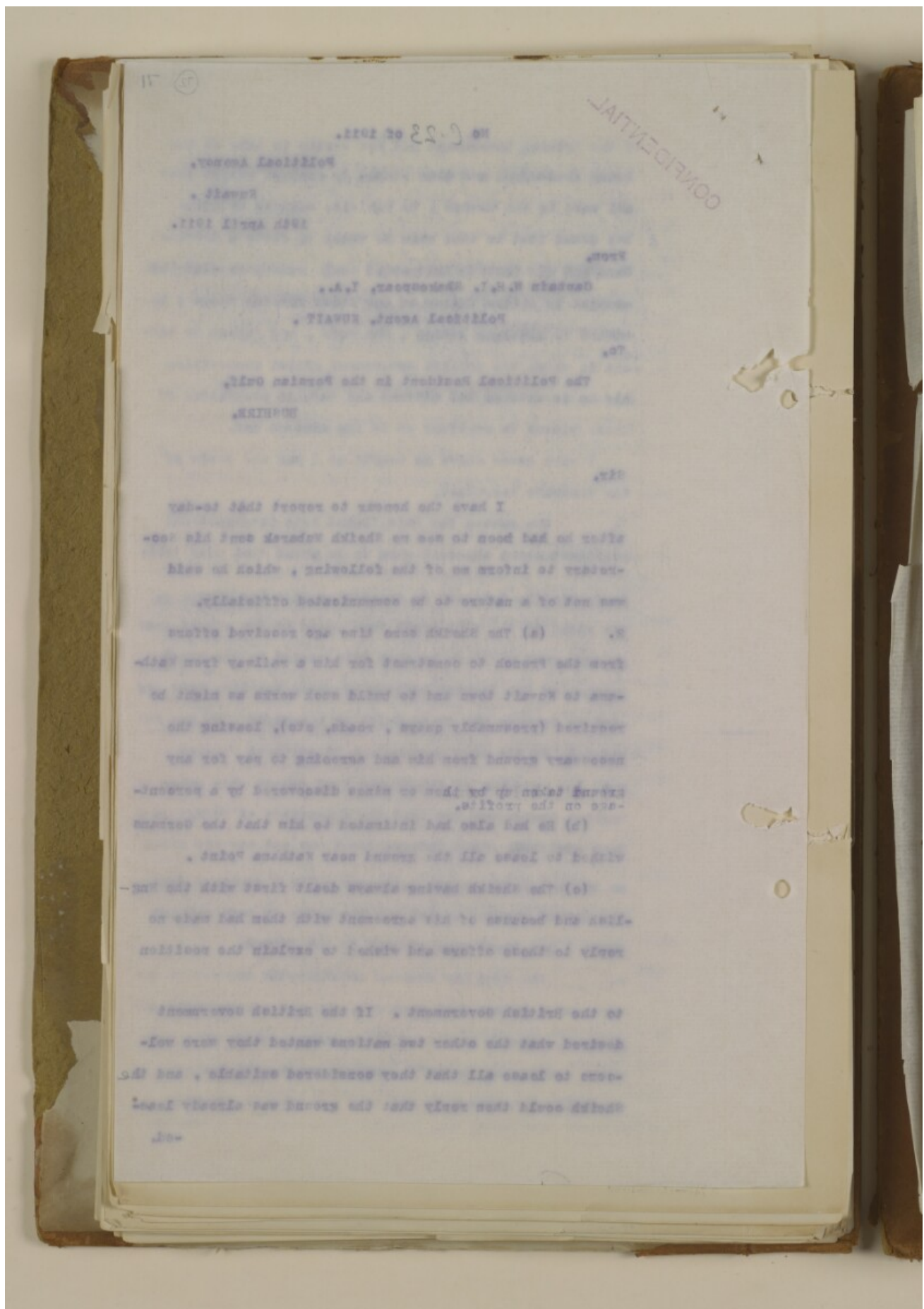
2. (a) The Sheikh some time ago received offers from the French to construct for him a railway from Kathama to Kuwait town and to build such works as might be required (presumably quays , roads, etc), leasing the necessary ground from him and agreeing to pay for any ground taken up by them or mines discovered by a percentage on the profits.

(b) He had also had intimated to him that the Germans wished to lease all the ground near Kathama Point .

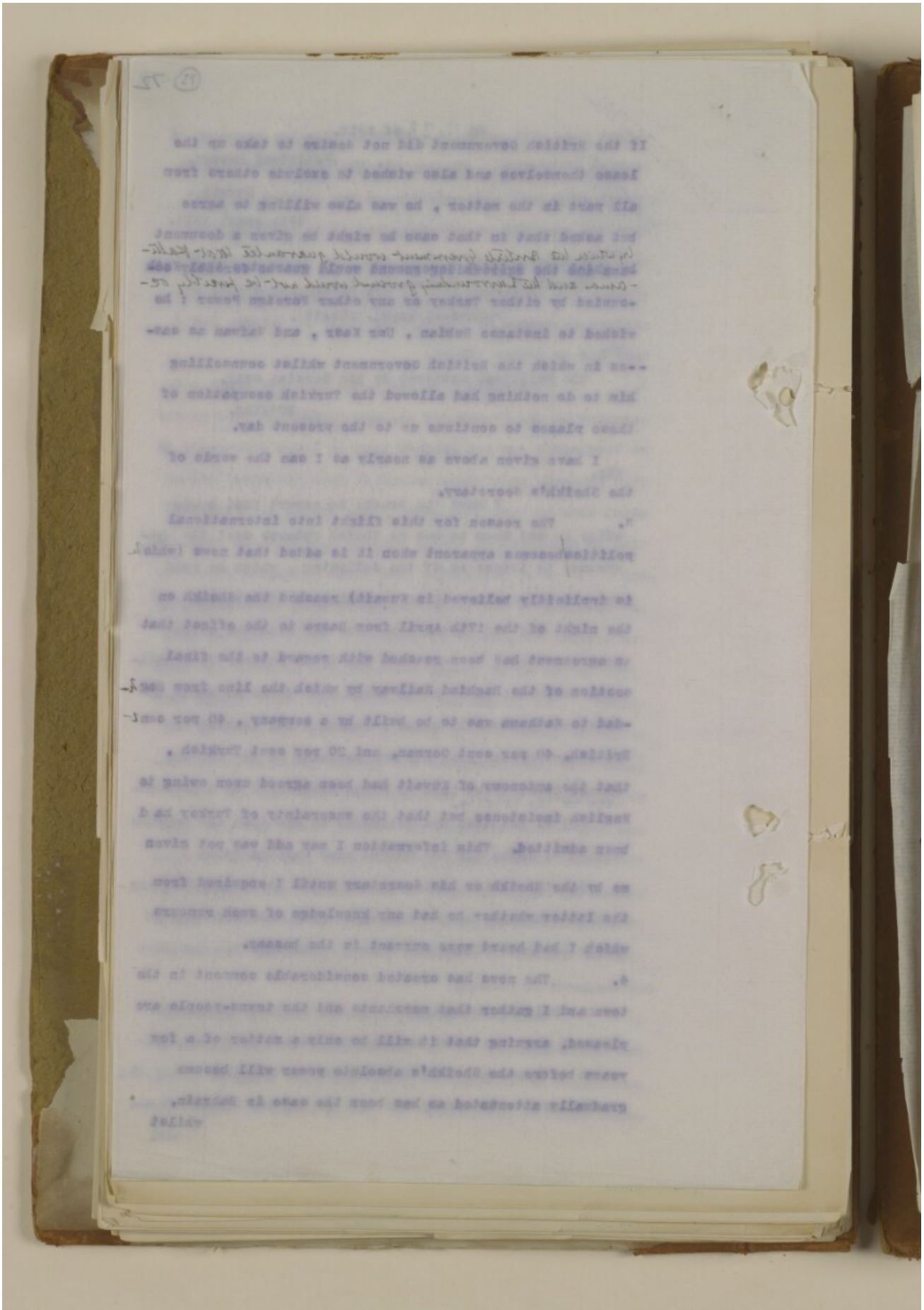
(c) The Sheikh having always dealt first with the English and because of his agreement with them had made no reply to these offers and wished to explain the position

to the British Government . If the British Government desired what the other two nations wanted they were welcome to lease all that they considered suitable , and the Sheikh could then reply that the ground was already leased.

-ed.



View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.gdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100044361522.0x000092



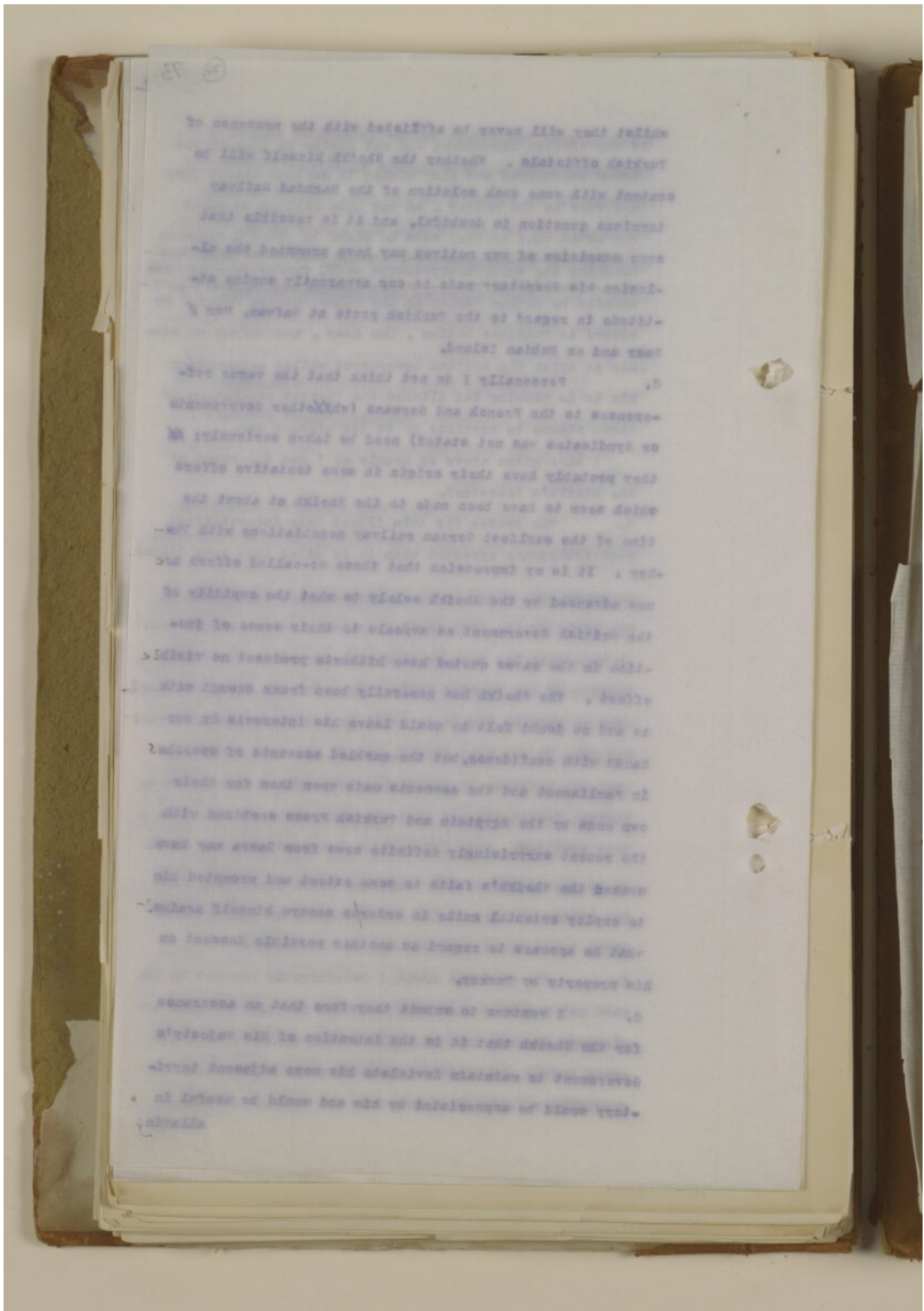


74 73

whilst they will never be afflicted with the presence of Turkish officials. Whether the Sheikh himself will be content with some such solution of the Baghdad Railway terminus question is doubtful, and it is possible that some suspicion of our motives may have prompted the allusion his Secretary made to our apparently supine attitude in regard to the Turkish posts at Safwan, Umr / Nasr and on Babian Island.

5. Personally I do not think that the vague references to the French and Germans (whether Governments or Syndicates was not stated) need be taken seriously; ~~for~~ they probably have their origin in some tentative offers which seem to have been made to the Sheikh at about the time of the earliest German railway negotiations with Turkey. It is my impression that these so-called offers are now advanced by the Sheikh solely to what the cupidity of the British Government as appeals to their sense of justice in the cases quoted have hitherto produced no visible effect. The Sheikh has generally been frank enough with us and no doubt felt he could leave his interests in our hands with confidence, but the garbled accounts of speeches in Parliament and the comments made upon them for their own ends by the Egyptian and Turkish Press combined with the recent surprisingly definite news from Basra may have shaken the Sheikh's faith to some extent and prompted him to employ oriental guile in order to secure himself against what he appears to regard as another possible descent on his property by Turkey.

6. I venture to submit therefore that an assurance for the Sheikh that it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to maintain inviolate his more adjacent territory would be appreciated by him and would be useful in allaying





75 74

allaying such suspicions as may be ~~raised~~ raised by
intriguing persons and a hostile press.

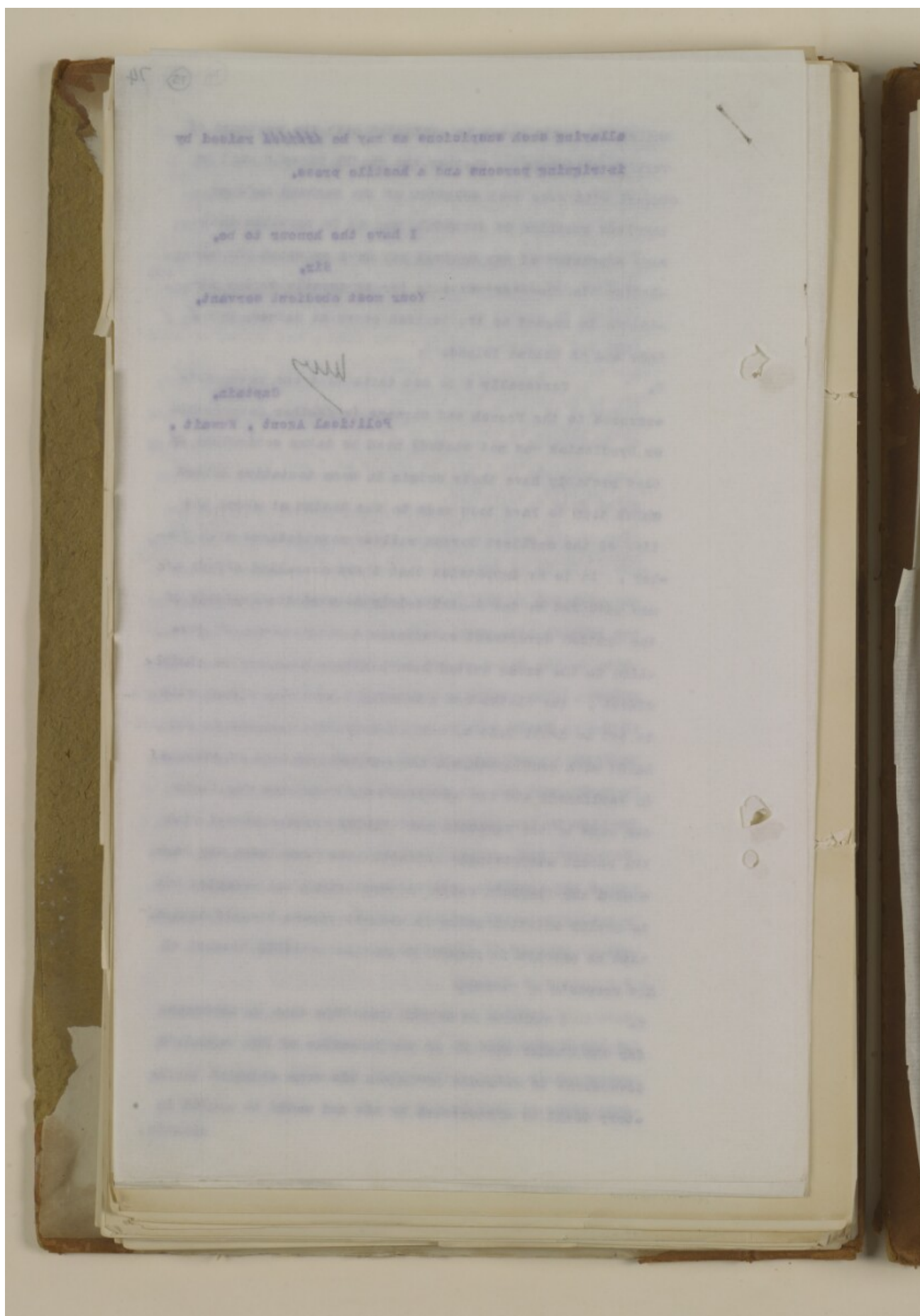
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain,

Political Agent, Kuwait.





75

No. 1070 of 1911.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 25 April 1911.

CONFIDENTIAL

W. H. D. S.
APR 28 1911
c. 37

To

The Political Agent,
A o w e i t.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose, for your information,
copies of the marginally cited correspondence which has passed

Sheikh Mobarak to Resident, letter
dated 22nd April 1911.
Resident, to Sheikh Mobarak, letter
No. 1057, dated 23rd April 1911.

Resident to Foreign, telegram No. 369
dated 24th April 1911.

for the safety of Kathama.

on the subject of the
Sheikh's apprehensions

I have the honour to be,

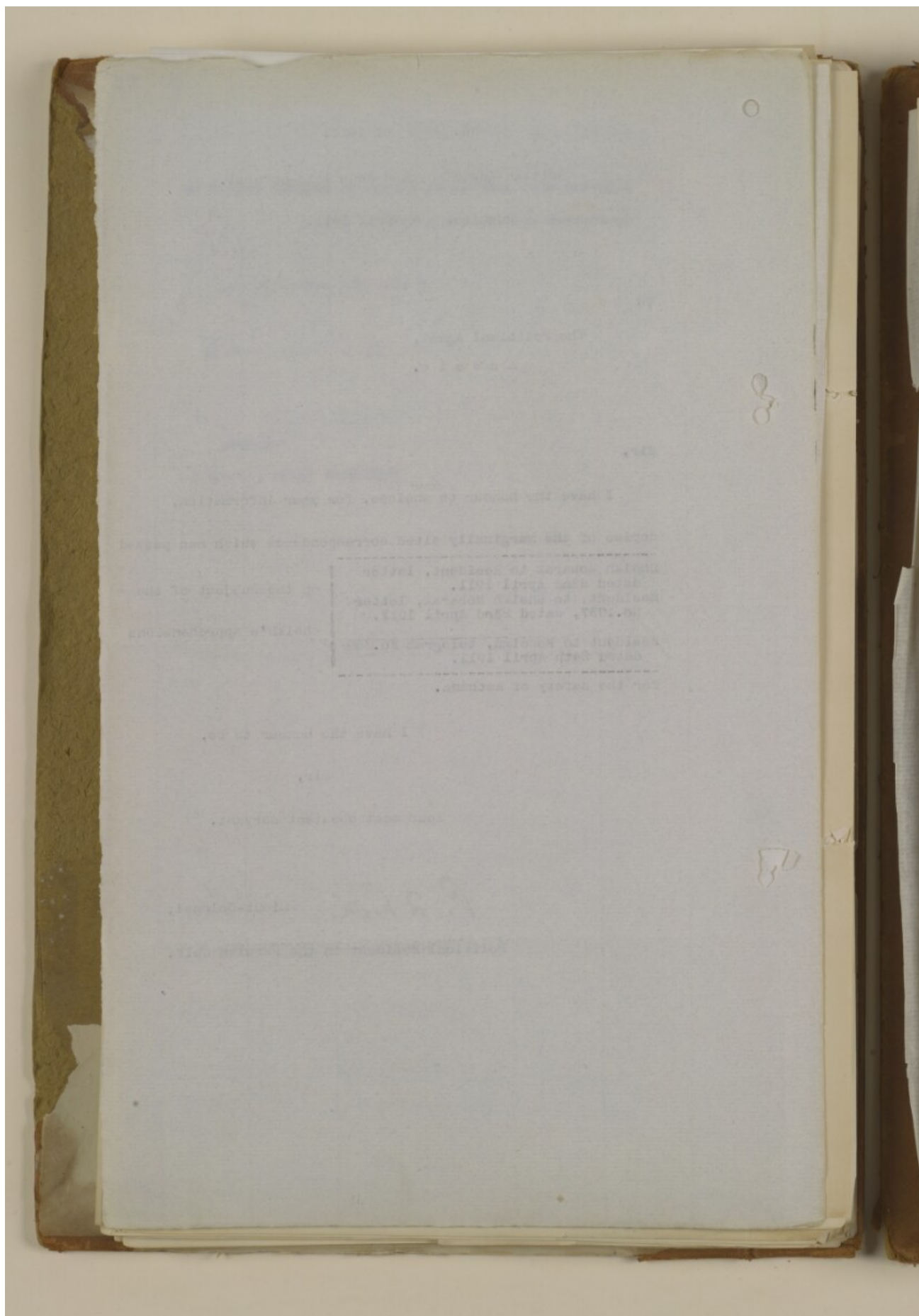
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. 2 Col.

Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





77 76

Translation.

Dated 23rd Rabi II 1329.

22 April 1911

From - Sheikh Mobarak es Subah,

Sheikh of Koweit.

To - Lt-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C. S. I., C. I. E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

A. C.

I beg to inform Your Honour that whereas the Island of Bubiyan and Um Kasr and Safwan are included in the territorial limits of my town of Koweit and some years ago the Sublime Porte finding them empty placed military posts in those places and experienced no objection from the British Government by way of protection to me. So now having regard to the negotiations proceeding among the Powers on the subject of the terminus of the Baghdad Railway, I fear for Kathama, which is within my boundaries and which is now the subject of discussion between the great Powers and I therefore represent to Your Honour that I being shorn of my security from this cause and before the worst happens I ask from you three requests and ask you to take one of them.

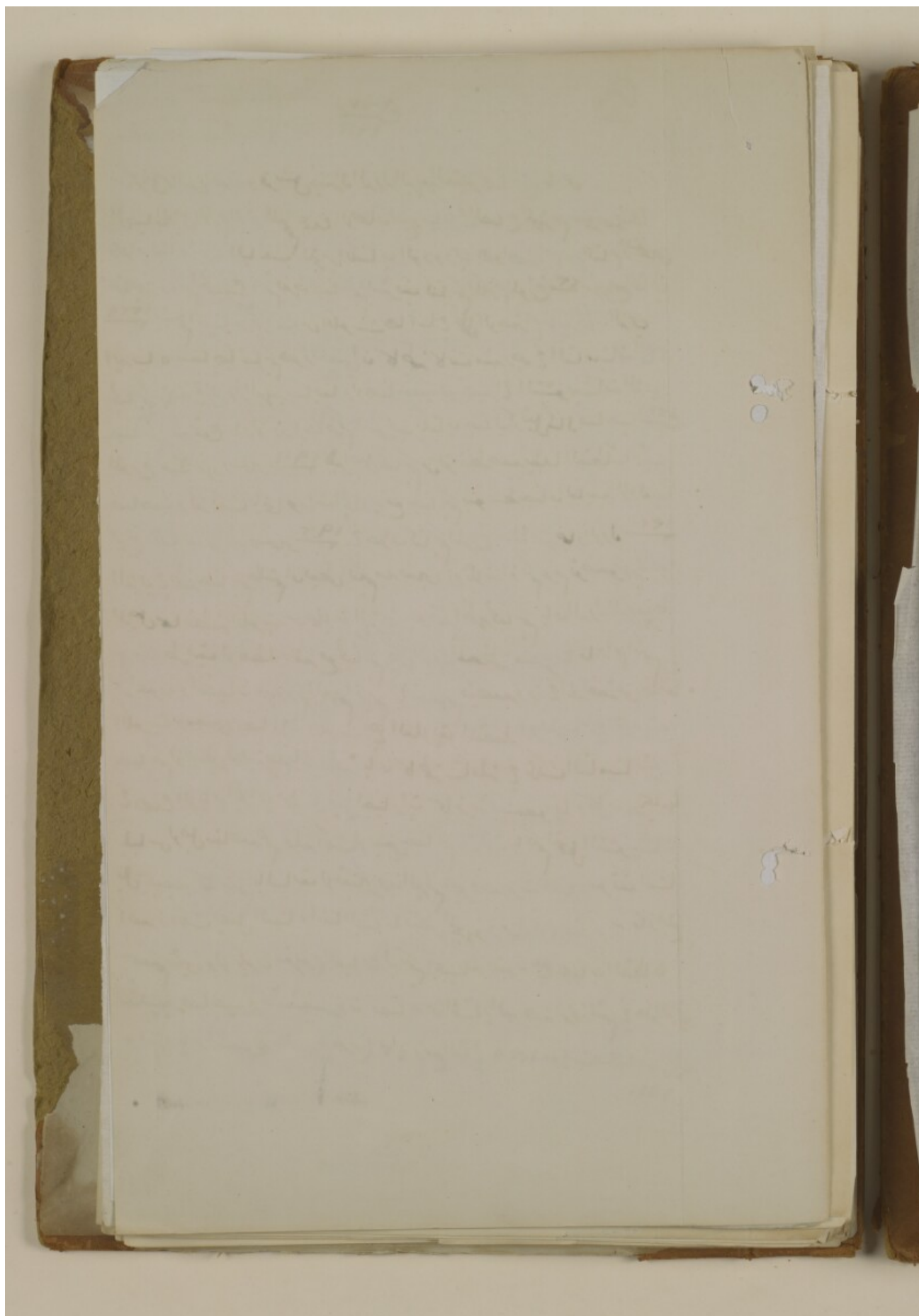
Either lease Kathama from me and you protect it and its neighbourhood or let me lease it or give me with a written undertaking from the British Government to protect it and its vicinity from aggression by Foreign Powers, the Turkish Government being included among them. These are the requests which I have presented to you. I want an answer quickly before the occurrence of anything untoward, such as I fear. I beg for the continuance of your regard and may you remain safe.



بسم الله

From Resident ٧٨
To Sheikh Subrah

من كرنيل ماكس البرن وفرضل جنرال الدولة البرية العنصرية في خليج فارس
الحضرة لاجل الاكرم الوهم المقيم عن الوهاب الشيخ مبارك الصباح المحترم سلمه الله تعالى
وادام بقاءه ائمة الباعث لتوسيع القاب الودودي هو هذا السلام الفام والنقص
عن صحة ذانكم المحبت وشم نرف جنانكم الشريف كناتكم المكرم المورخ ١٢٤٩ شهر ربيع الثاني
١٢٤٩ سلم البنا من حركتان الكويت ها انا في كل الاحكام ناية الجواب الذي
ابدينا ه شفاها جنانكم هو ذا يعني ان كاظم كانت منذ رجوعنا الى ميناء الى اصل
لجنانكم من حضرة الدولة البرية سابقا ولا هنا سبب يوجب الى التوثيق الذي
جنانكم اظهرتم في اوله ذكر خاظم الشريف بكتاب جناب كرنيل كمالا صاحب شمس
المورخ ١٢٤٩ شهر ديسمبر ١٢٤٩ له اصل لجنانكم من نرسط صديقتنا العنصرية
صاحب وكذا انك بالمجاورات الجارية مع جنابكم بنو ط جنانبا لانيب الاوليت
ربح انك ان شهر ديسمبر ١٢٤٩ في جواب كناتكم المورخ ١٢٤٩ شهر جاد الاول ١٢٤٩
الذي في طم جنانكم بلنم ان بعض انكم مدفعين اول ثلاثة اذ كنم عزم نوضفونهم في الجهر
لاجل محافظنة الكويت من خلاص البرية بوقفة اظهر لجنانكم بان الدولة البرية ما
برون طرقت لا عطا والمطاع لجنانكم لكن الدولة المحظمة متعدي ما دام انكم
تراعون واجبات عهودكم اليهم انهم بانفسهم نبصرون في المدة افعه عن ضمانا
الكويت ومضى مضان الكويت هي العلايق المتصلة او بقرب خليج الكويت
جنانكم لا ينبغي له بشهد بالكلية بان كاظم شاملة في تلك التامينات
في هذه الايام الجارية من كل قبل اخبارات ساذبة يشعورنا وكل منهم يجلبها
بلباس لاجل مفاصدهم فلهذا انك لا ينبغي جنانكم تتركون بانكم لتعمل التوثيق
بل يجب كما كنتم بالسابق لا تفكرون اليهم بمجرد حدوث اخبار موثقة انا
انه ذانك بصل البنا وانا ايضا ما نقصر المجهود من اعلام جنانكم به فاذا بلغ
سمعكم شي ولا يكون مغرورم العبارا لديم يجب نرضونه مع جناب القبطان
تفسير صاحب وتفسرون معناه من الحار اليه هذه اول ركن في علم الترقى
وانه ويا المسوق والسلام مر ٢٣ ربيع الثاني ١٢٤٩ موافق ١٢٤٩ شهر ابريل
١٩١١





78

No. 1057 of 1911.

which you do not understand show it to Captain Shakespeare and
British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 21st April 1911.

May your prosperity and happiness always increase.

To

Sheikh Mobarak es Subah,
Sheikh of Koweit.

A. C.

Your seteeemed letter dated 23rd Rabi II 1329 was duly
handed to me before leaving Koweit.

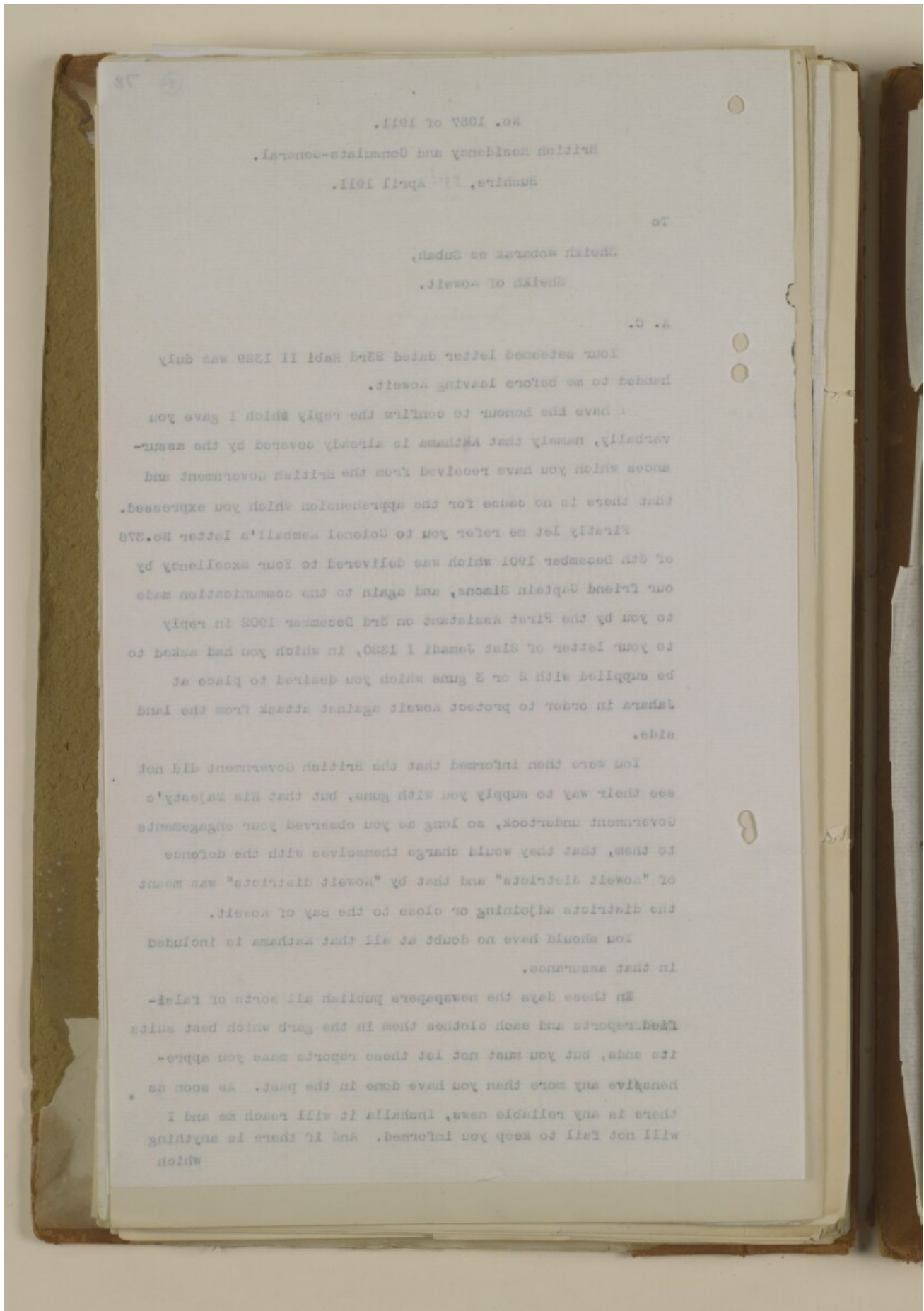
I have the honour to confirm the reply which I gave you
verbally, namely that Kathama is already covered by the assur-
ances which you have received from the British Government and
that there is no cause for the apprehension which you expressed.

Firstly let me refer you to Colonel Aemball's letter No.376
of 6th December 1901 which was delivered to Your Excellency by
our friend Captain Simons, and again to the communication made
to you by the First Assistant on 3rd December 1902 in reply
to your letter of 21st Jemadi I 1320, in which you had asked to
be supplied with 2 or 3 guns which you desired to place at
Jahara in order to protect Koweit against attack from the land
side.

You were then informed that the British Government did not
see their way to supply you with guns, but that His Majesty's
Government undertook, so long as you observed your engagements
to them, that they would charge themselves with the defence
of "Koweit districts" and that by "Koweit districts" was meant
the districts adjoining or close to the Bay of Koweit.

You should have no doubt at all that Kathama is included
in that assurance.

In these days the newspapers publish all sorts of falsi-
fied reports and each clothes them in the garb which best suits
its ends, but you must not let these reports make you appre-
hensive any more than you have done in the past. As soon as
there is any reliable news, Inshalla it will reach me and I
will not fail to keep you informed. And if there is anything
which





79
which you do not understand show it to Captain Shakespear and
ask him the meaning or portent of it.

May your prosperity and happiness always increase.

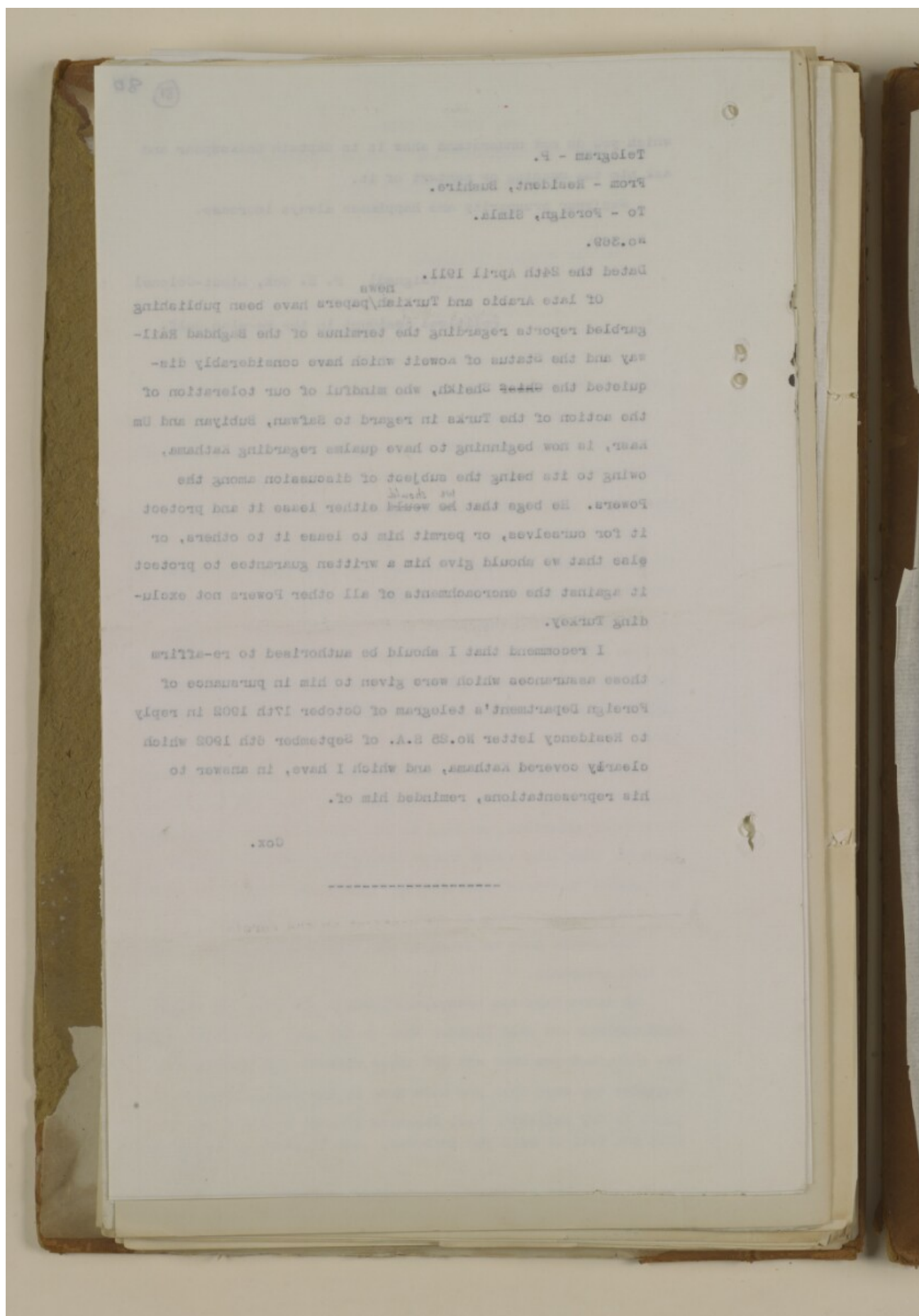
Dated the 26th April 1902 (signed) P. Z. Cox, Lieut-Colonel

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Of late Arabic and Turkish papers have been publishing
garbled reports regarding the position of the Persian Gulf
and the status of Kuwait which have considerably dis-
quieted the Wahab Sheikh, who mindful of our toleration of
the action of the Turks in regard to Sofwan, Bahiyah and Ba-
har, is now beginning to have qualms regarding Athman,
owing to its being the subject of discussion among the
Powers. He begs that we should either lease it and protect
it for ourselves, or permit him to lease it to others, or
give that we should give him a written guarantee to protect
it against the encroachments of all other Powers not exclu-
ding Turkey.

I recommend that I should be authorised to re-affirm
those assurances which were given to him in pursuance of
Foreign Department's telegram of October 17th 1902 in reply
to Residency letter No. 55 S.A. of September 8th 1902 which
clearly covered Athman, and which I have, in answer to
his representations, reminded him of.

Cox.





Telegram - P.

From - Resident, Bushire.

To - Foreign, Simla.

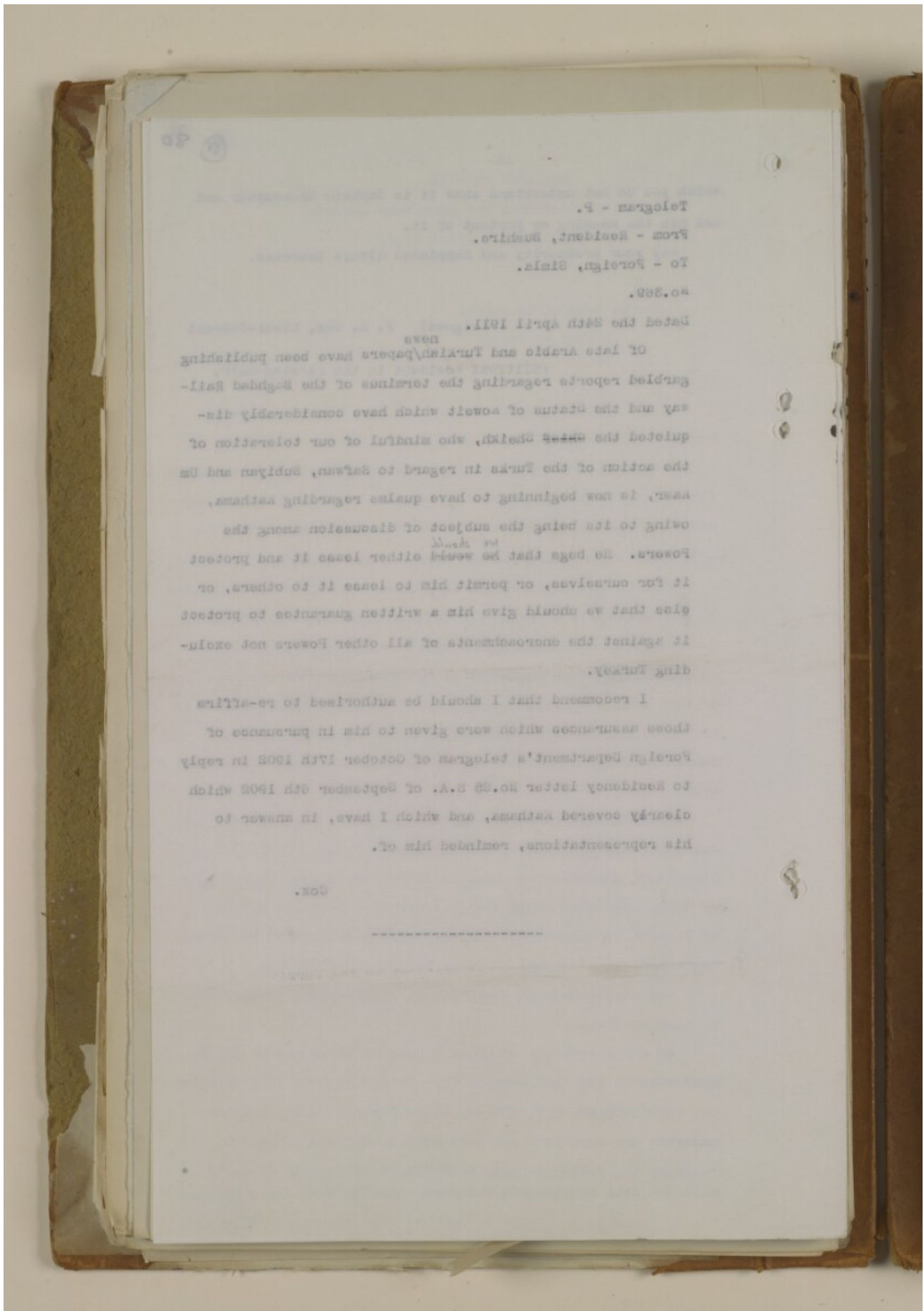
No.369.

Dated the 24th April 1911.

news
Of late Arabic and Turkish/papers have been publishing garbled reports regarding the terminus of the Baghdad Railway and the Status of Koweit which have considerably disquieted the Chief Sheikh, who mindful of our toleration of the action of the Turks in regard to Safwan, Bubiyan and Um Kasr, is now beginning to have qualms regarding Kathama, owing to its being the subject of discussion among the Powers. He begs that ^{we should} ~~he would~~ either lease it and protect it for ourselves, or permit him to lease it to others, or else that we should give him a written guarantee to protect it against the encroachments of all other Powers not excluding Turkey.

I recommend that I should be authorised to re-affirm those assurances which were given to him in pursuance of Foreign Department's telegram of October 17th 1902 in reply to Residency letter No.25 S.A. of September 6th 1902 which clearly covered Kathama, and which I have, in answer to his representations, reminded him of.

Cox.





No. 1063 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 24th April (received 1st May) 1911.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The HON'BLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR HENRY MCMAHON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

In amplification of my telegram No. 369, dated the 24th instant, I have the honour to submit for the information of the Government of India, copies of the communications marginally cited which have passed between the Shaikh of Kuwait and myself on the subject of the protection of Kathama from possible aggression by a Foreign Power.

Shaikh of Kuwait to Resident, dated 23rd Rabi II 1329—22nd April 1911.
Resident to Shaikh of Kuwait, No. 1057, dated 23rd April 1911.

Dated 23rd Rabi II 1329.

From—SHAIKH MUBARAK-ES-SUBAH, Shaikh of Kuwait,

To—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I beg to inform Your Honour that whereas the Island of Bubiyan and Um Kasr and Safwan are included in the territorial limits of my town of Kuwait and some years ago the Sublime Porte finding them empty placed military posts in those places and experienced no objection from the British Government by way of protection to me; so now, having regard to the negotiations proceeding among the Powers on the subject of the terminus of the Baghdad Railway, I fear for Kathama, which is within my boundaries and which is now the subject of discussion between the great Powers; and I therefore represent to Your Honour that being shorn of my security from this cause and before the worst happens, I ask from you three requests and ask you to accept one of them.

Either lease Kathama from me and you protect it and its neighbourhood, or let me lease it, or give me a written undertaking from the British Government to protect it and its vicinity from aggression by Foreign Powers, the Turkish Government being included among them. These are the requests which I have presented to you. I want an answer quickly before the occurrence of anything untoward, such as I fear. I beg for the continuance of your regard and may you remain safe.

No. 1057 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 23rd April 1911.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—SHAIKH MUBARAK-ES-SUBAH, Shaikh of Kuwait.

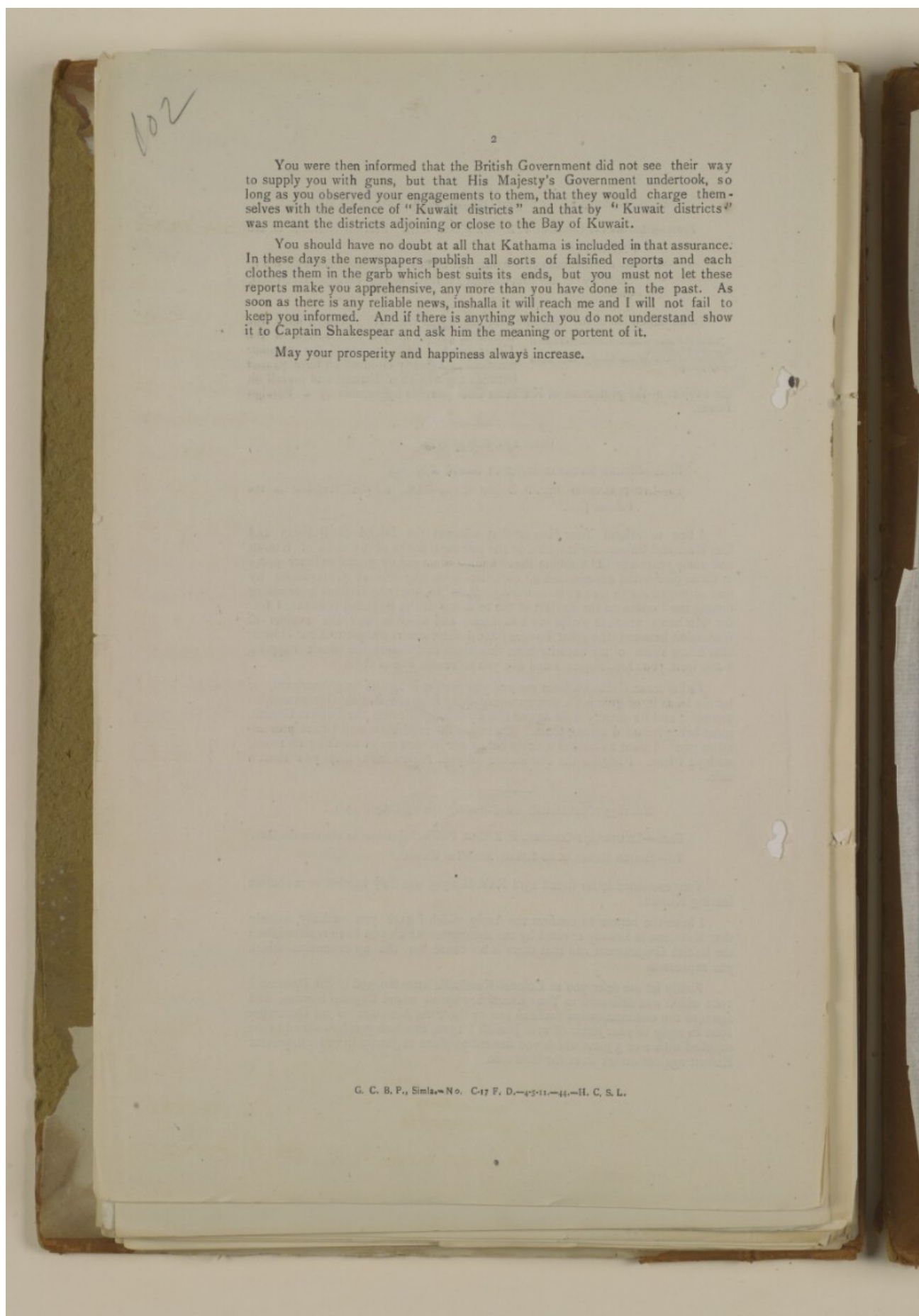
Your esteemed letter dated 23rd Rabi II 1329 was duly handed to me before leaving Kuwait.

I have the honour to confirm the reply which I gave you verbally, namely that Kathama is already covered by the assurances which you have received from the British Government and that there is no cause for the apprehension which you expressed.

Firstly let me refer you to Colonel Kembell's letter No. 376 of 6th December 1901 which was delivered to Your Excellency by our friend Captain Simons, and again to the communication made to you by the First Assistant on 3rd December 1902 in reply to your letter of 21st Jemadi I 1320, in which you had asked to be supplied with 2 or 3 guns which you desired to place at Jahara in order to protect Kuwait against attack from the land side.



W. J. W. JUL 18 1911



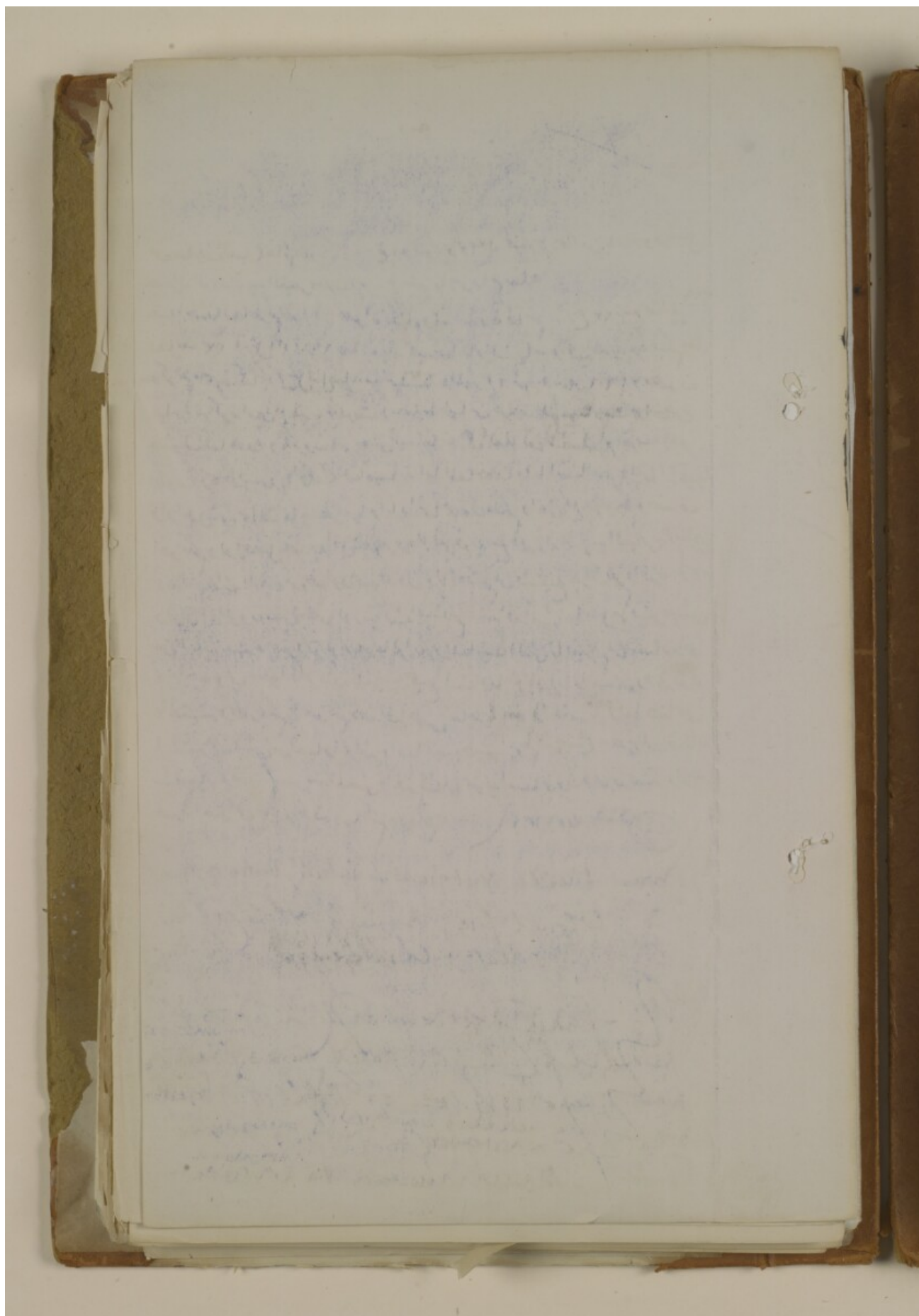


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Copy
a.
W-702-28
MAY 2 - 1917

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الاحقر دولتنا والجلال المحب كبريل كاكس باليون وفونس
جنرال الدوله البريه القصره الانكليزيه في خليج فارس دامت بقاءه
غيب اقتضا خاطركم الصاغر هو ان يدور اد اخذت كتابكم المؤرخ ٢٣ ربيع الثاني ١٩١١
مطابق ٢٣ ابريل عام ١٩١١ وما ابدتكم فيه من آثار الشريانه والمحبه المعروفه فيكم وما
ذكرتم من حبه كتاب كبريل كاكس صاحب ٢٣١١ والمؤرخ ٦ شهر ديسمبر ١٩٠١ ومطعون
عباراته ان يكون امين على بلدي الكويت ومضا فائدها من حملات البريه مادمت محافظ
حقوق المعاهد وتأمرون ان معنى المضافات هي العلائق الفصله او بقرب خليج
الكويت وكاظمه شملها تلك التامينات اما المعاهد فانا استاخره دامت اراجيحها
ولا اعمل شي مخالفا لما سطر فيها وانا دامت محضون منكم واعتمد على عهدهم وحده
افواكم ولا يحصل عندهم من اقل شربه وعلائق قويه مع الدوله البريه القصره الانكليزيه
وبواسطتها امين من طواري جميع الدول ولا اهتم من تشيع جرائدهم واقول سوام
ولكن اذا ترون مني بعض الارتباك استلهم عنده فذاك حاصل من تشويش
من الرعيه عنده ما يفرق من الاخبار فاجرائه والمكاتب التي تاتيهم من مصادر
وبراجعوني عنها فلا يمكن نكذب جميع الشائعات الا اذا راجعتم واخذوني
بالحقينه ونصرتكم في جوابكم هذه الاطمن خاطرنا منه واعتمدته وبعد هذه اكمل
استنبه عينا شي من اخبار الجرائد والمكاتب حسب امركم فترضتم حضرت المحب قطان
تكميله ونفسر منه المعنى واختم كتابي بجزيه امتثالي وشكري من محبتكم وارجو
قبول احترامي مع دوام توجهاكم ودمتم محرومين (٢٣ جماد الاول ١٣٣٩)
(الصابر الصاغر)

From Sheikh Mubarak-as-Sabir, Ruler of Kuwait
To Colonel Cae, British Political Resi-
-dent & Consul-General in the Pen-
-insula

My dear Sir,
I have received with the hands of
friendship your letter dated the 23rd Rabi-
-ul-Thani 1339 (i.e. 23rd April 1917) and
what you have made permanent in it of the
(proof) of the generosity and the
zeal





84 83

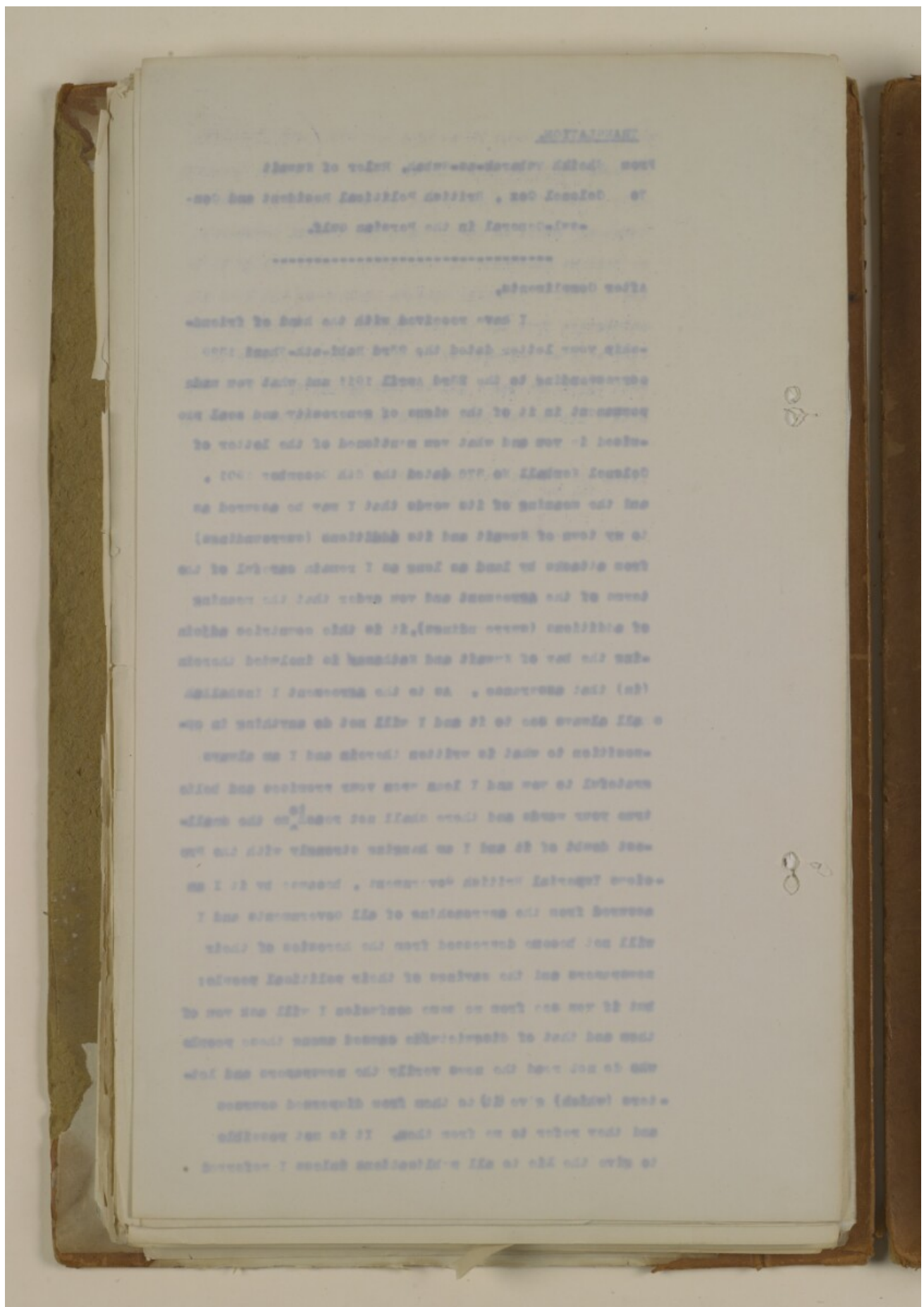
TRANSLATION.

From Sheikh Mubarak-as-Sabah, Ruler of Kuwait
To Colonel Cox, British Political Resident and Con-
-sul-General in the Persian Gulf.

After Compliments,

I have received with the hand of friend-
-ship your letter dated the 23rd Rabi-ath-Thani 1329
corresponding to the 23rd April 1911 and what you made
manifest permanent in it of the signs of generosity and seal pro-
protection mised ~~in~~ you and what you mentioned of the letter of
Colonel Kimball No 376 dated the 6th December 1901,
and the meaning of its words that I may be assured as
to my town of Kuwait and its additions (surroundings)
from attacks by land as long as I remain careful of the
terms of the Agreement and you order that the meaning
of additions (surroundings), it is this countries adjoin-
-ing the bay of Kuwait and Kathama is included therein
(in) that assurance. As to the Agreement I Inshallah
observe shall always see ~~to~~ it and I will not do anything in op-
-position to what is written therein and I am always
grateful to you and I lean upon your promises and belie-
true your words and there shall not reach ^{to} me the small-
-est doubt of it and I am hanging strongly with the Pro-
-cious Imperial British Government, because by it I am
assured from the approaching of all Governments and I
will not become depressed from the *publications* heresies of their
newspapers and the sayings of their political people;
but if you see from me some confusion I will ask you of-
handing it to the responsible ~~then~~ and that of disquietude caused among those people
when they ~~who do not~~ read the news easily, the newspapers and let-
come ~~ters (which) give it~~ to them from *various* ~~disparate~~ sources
and they refer to me from them. It is not possible
to give the lie to all publications unless I referred

M.





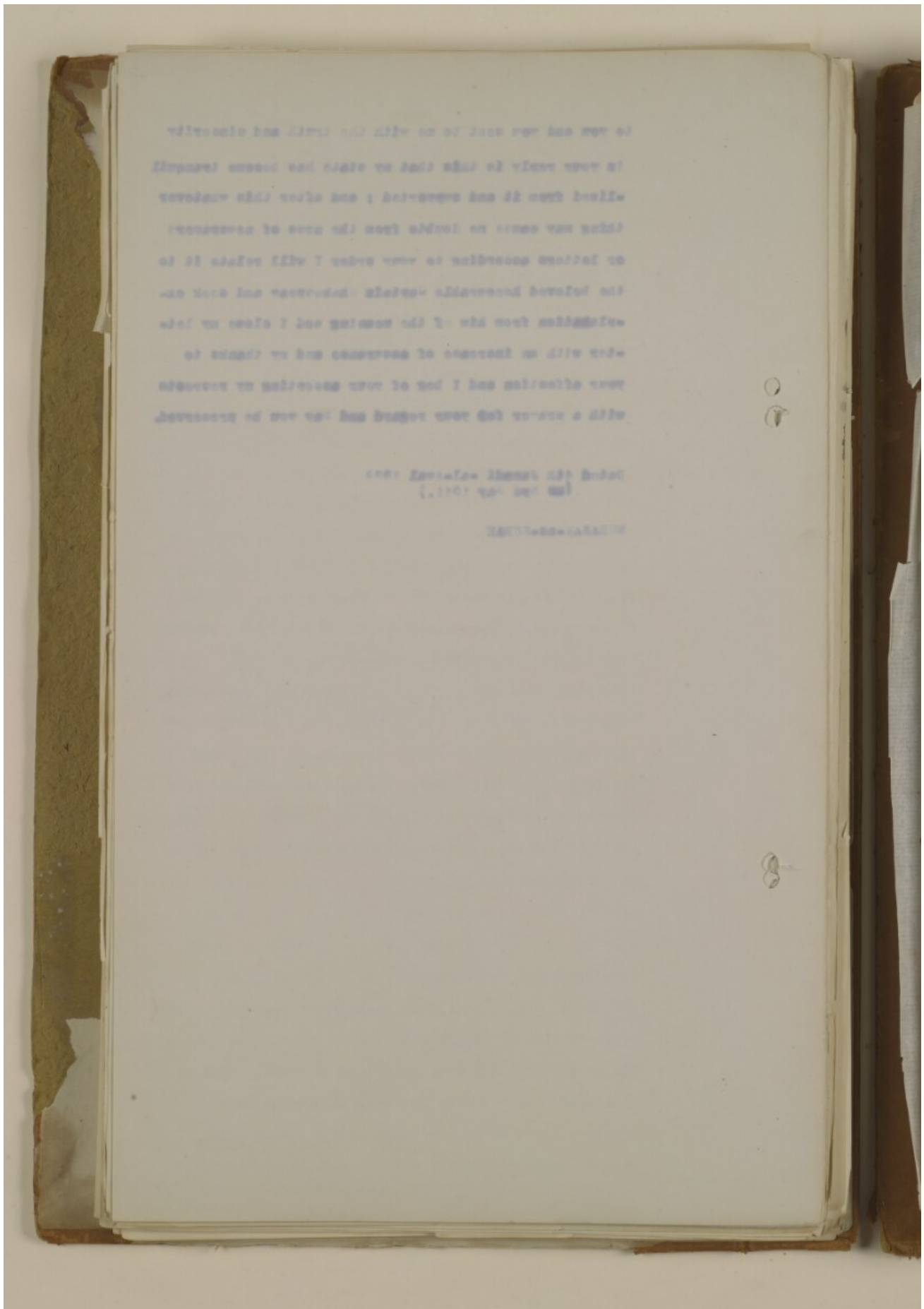
(85) 84⁵

live here *being the dear Captain*

to you and you sent to me with the truth and sincerity
this *has tranquillized my heart*
in your reply is ~~this~~ that my state has become tranquil
from its reliance
~~wise from it and supported~~; and after this whatever
thing may cause me doubts from the news of newspapers
or letters, according to your order I will relate it to
Excellent friend
the beloved-honourable Captain Shakespear and seek ex-
-planation from him of the meaning and I close my let-
-ter with an increase of *gratitude* assurance and ~~my~~ thanks to *for*
your affection and I beg of your accepting my respects
(Continued)
with a prayer *for* your regard and May you be preserved.

Dated 4th Jamadi -al-Awal 1329
(i.e. 3rd May 1911.)

NUBARRA-as-SURAB





86 85

No. 1752 of 1911.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, // July 1911.

CONFIDENTIAL

W. 1752
JUL 13 1911
c. 67

TO

The Political Agent,
K o w e i t.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence which passed in 1905 regarding the doings of one ~~Hatingginy~~ ending with Major Knox's letter No. 7 dated the 3rd January 1906.

I now enclose a copy of a letter containing instructions which I have addressed to the Political Agent, Bahrain. I shall No. 175/ dated // July 1911 be glad if you will take similar action at Koweit.

From the nature of Sheikh Mobarak's response to Major Knox, it would not appear that we need now hesitate, so far as he is concerned, to write to him on the subject, and it would be convenient to have a few lines from him on record, to which he could be referred if necessary, but I leave it to your discretion as to how to proceed to obtain it.

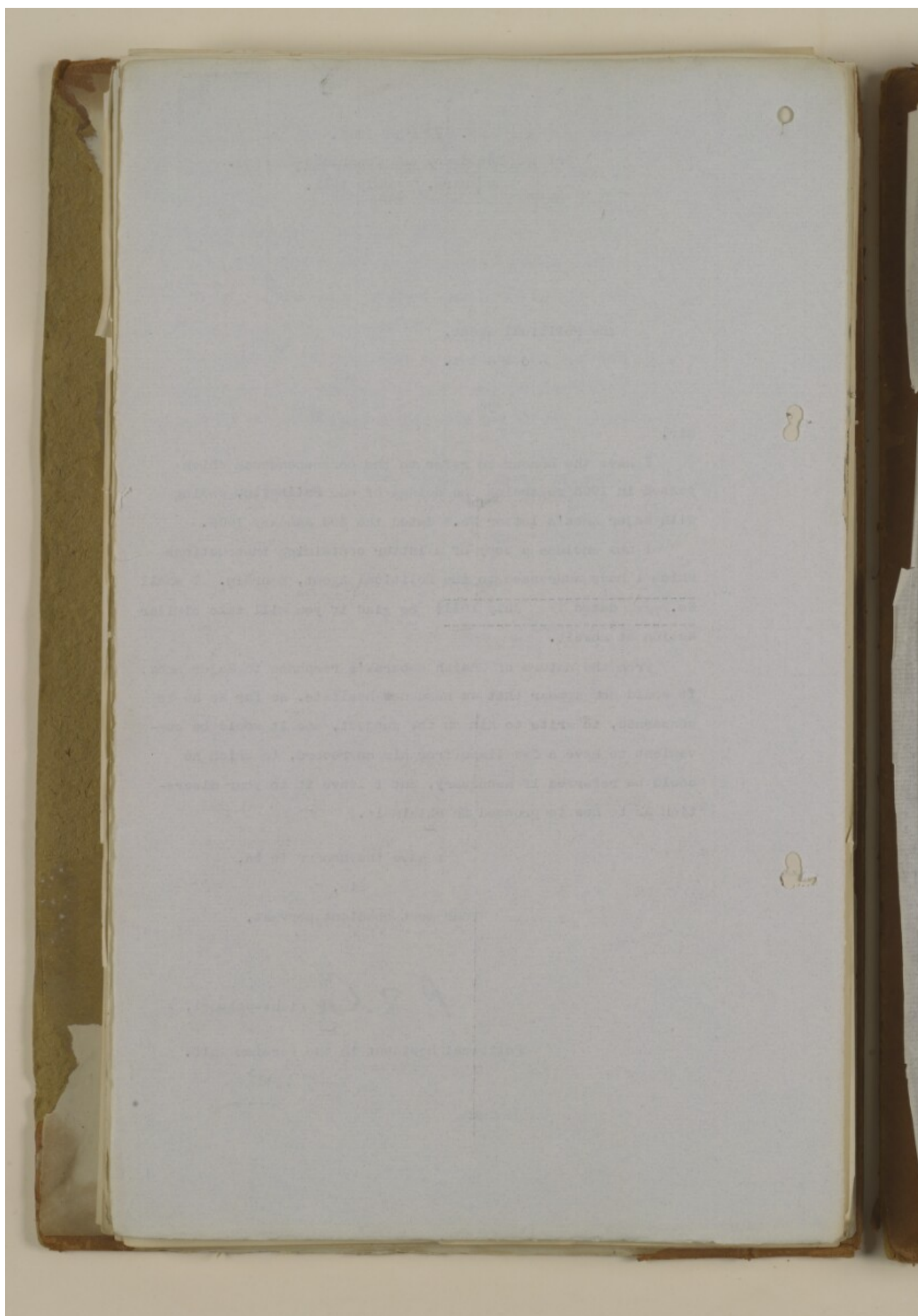
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. R. Cox Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





(87) 86
104

No. 1751 of 1911.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, // July 1911.

To

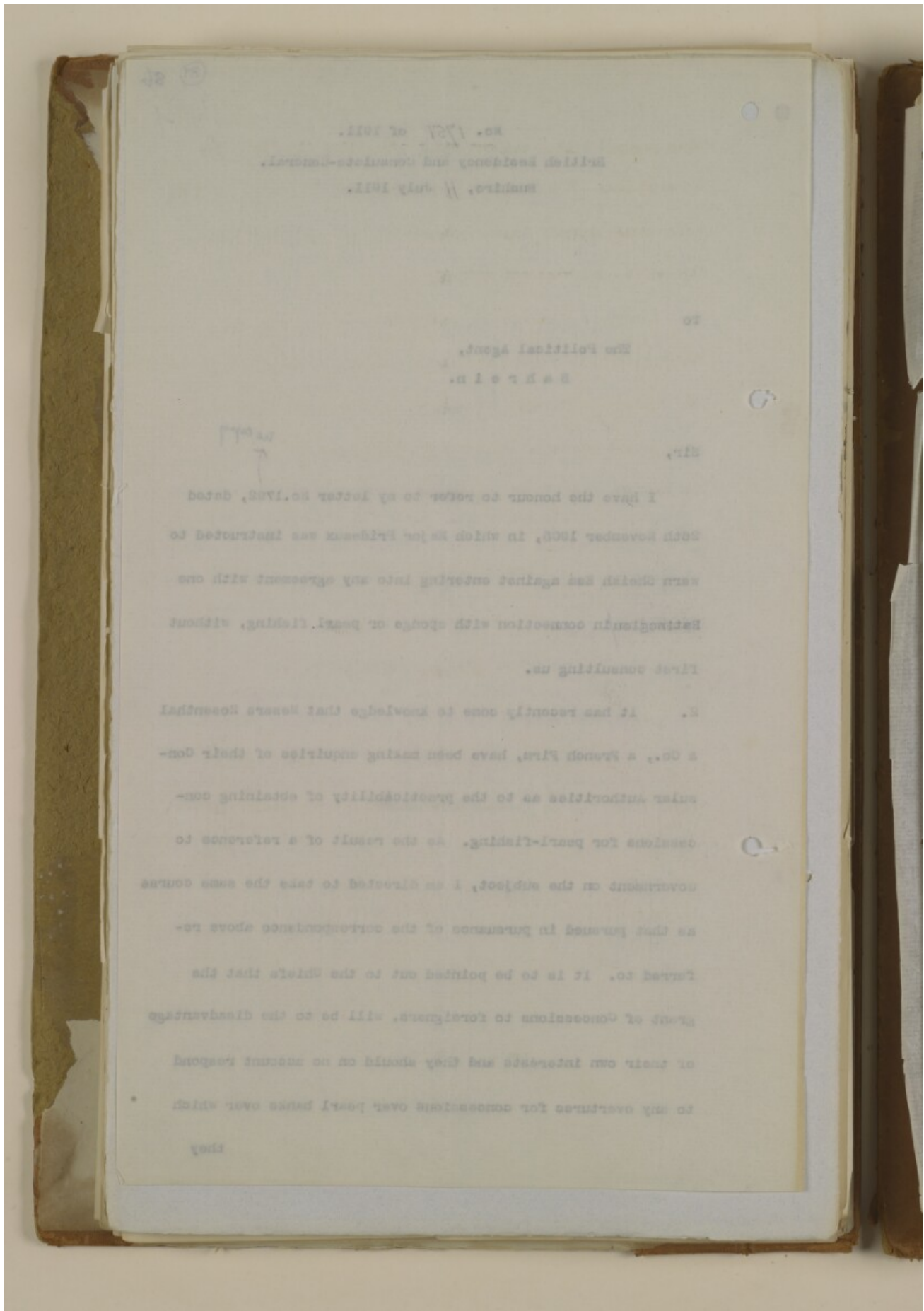
The Political Agent,
B a h r e i n.

Sir,

no copy
↑

I have the honour to refer to my letter No. 1792, dated 26th November 1905, in which Major Prideaux was instructed to warn Sheikh Esa against entering into any agreement with one Batimoglu in connection with sponge or pearl fishing, without first consulting us.

2. It has recently come to knowledge that Messrs Rosenthal & Co., a French Firm, have been making enquiries of their Consular Authorities as to the practicability of obtaining concessions for pearl-fishing. As the result of a reference to Government on the subject, I am directed to take the same course as that pursued in pursuance of the correspondence above referred to. It is to be pointed out to the Chiefs that the grant of Concessions to foreigners, will be to the disadvantage of their own interests and they should on no account respond to any overtures for concessions over pearl banks over which they





88 87

they possess rights without first consulting the Residency through you. If possible I am to endeavour to obtain written assurances in reply to the effect that they have understood the advice and will act upon it.

I suggest your writing confidentially to Sheikh Esa referring to Major Prideaux's warning regarding Hatinoglou, going on to say that it is thought advisable to repeat that warning ; then proceed to point out as above indicated and ask him to let you know that he has received the advice and understood it.

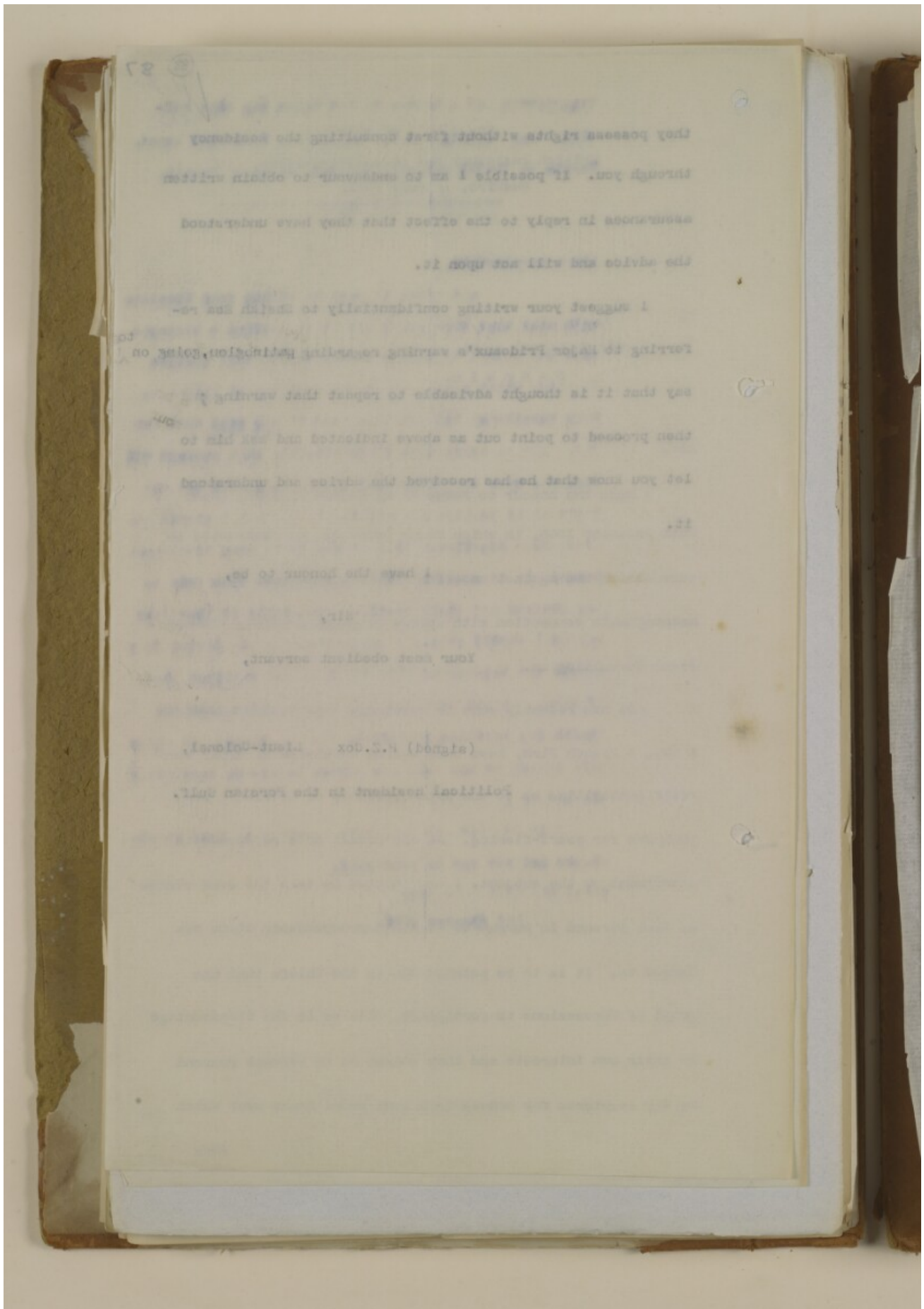
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(signed) P.Z.Cox Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





88
89

TRANSLATION of a letter No 345 dated the 29th July
1911. from Captain W.H.L. Shakespeare, Political Agent,
Kuwait to Sheikh Mubarak-as-Sabah, Ruler of Kuwait.

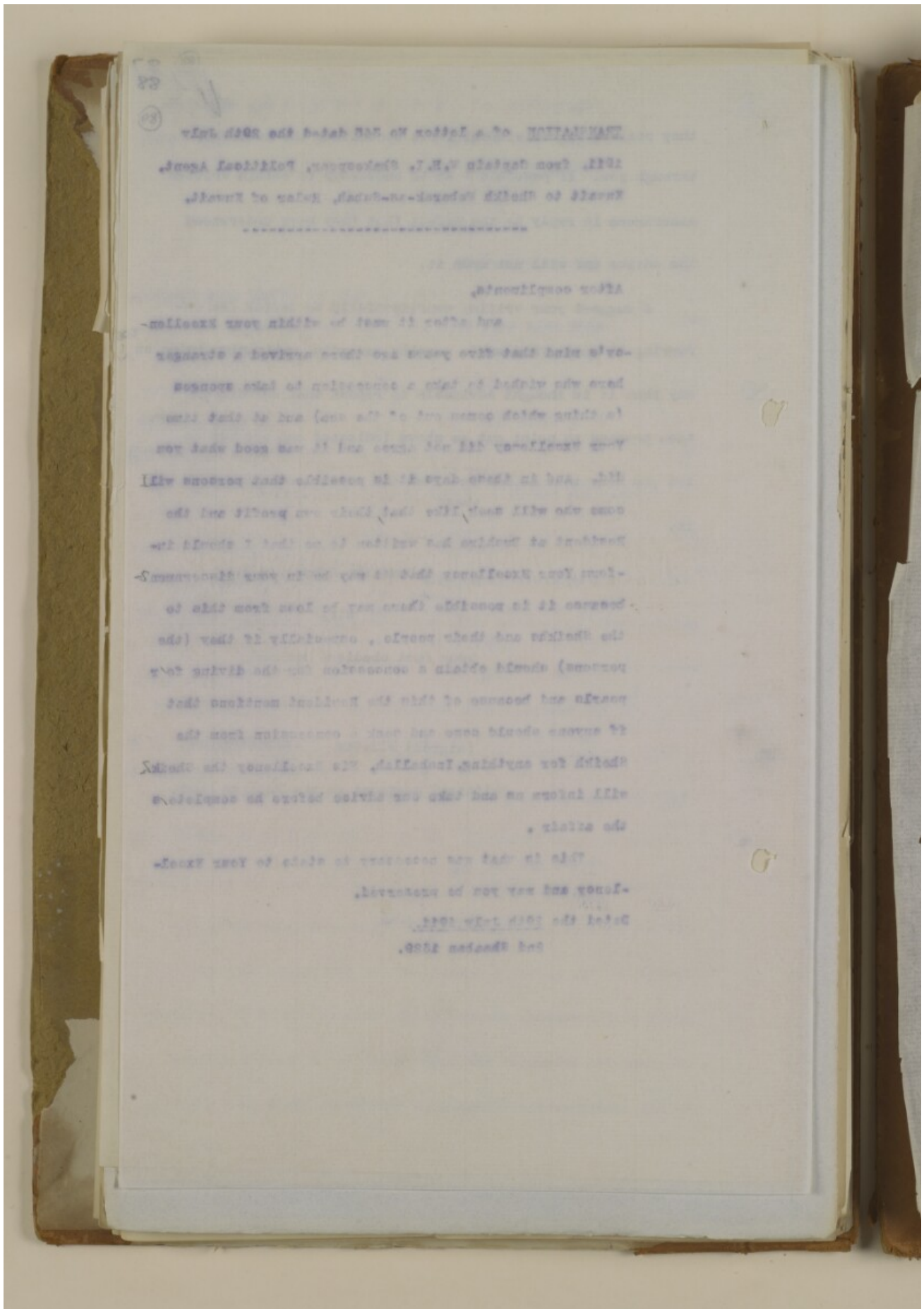
After compliments,

and after it was within your Excellen-
cy's mind that five years ago there arrived a stranger
here who wished to take a concession to take sponges
(a thing which comes out of the sea) and at that time
Your Excellency did not agree and it was good what you
did. And in these days it is possible that persons will
come who will seek, like that, their own profit and the
Resident of Bushira has written to me that I should in-
form Your Excellency that it may be in your discernment
because it is possible there may be loss from this to
the Sheikh and their people, especially if they (the
persons) should obtain a concession for the diving for
pearls and because of this the Resident mentions that
if anyone should come and seek a concession from the
Sheikh for anything, Inshallah, His Excellency the Sheikh
will inform us and take our advice before he complete
the affair.

This is what was necessary to state to Your Excel-
lency and may you be preserved.

Dated the 29th July 1911.

End Sheaban 1329.





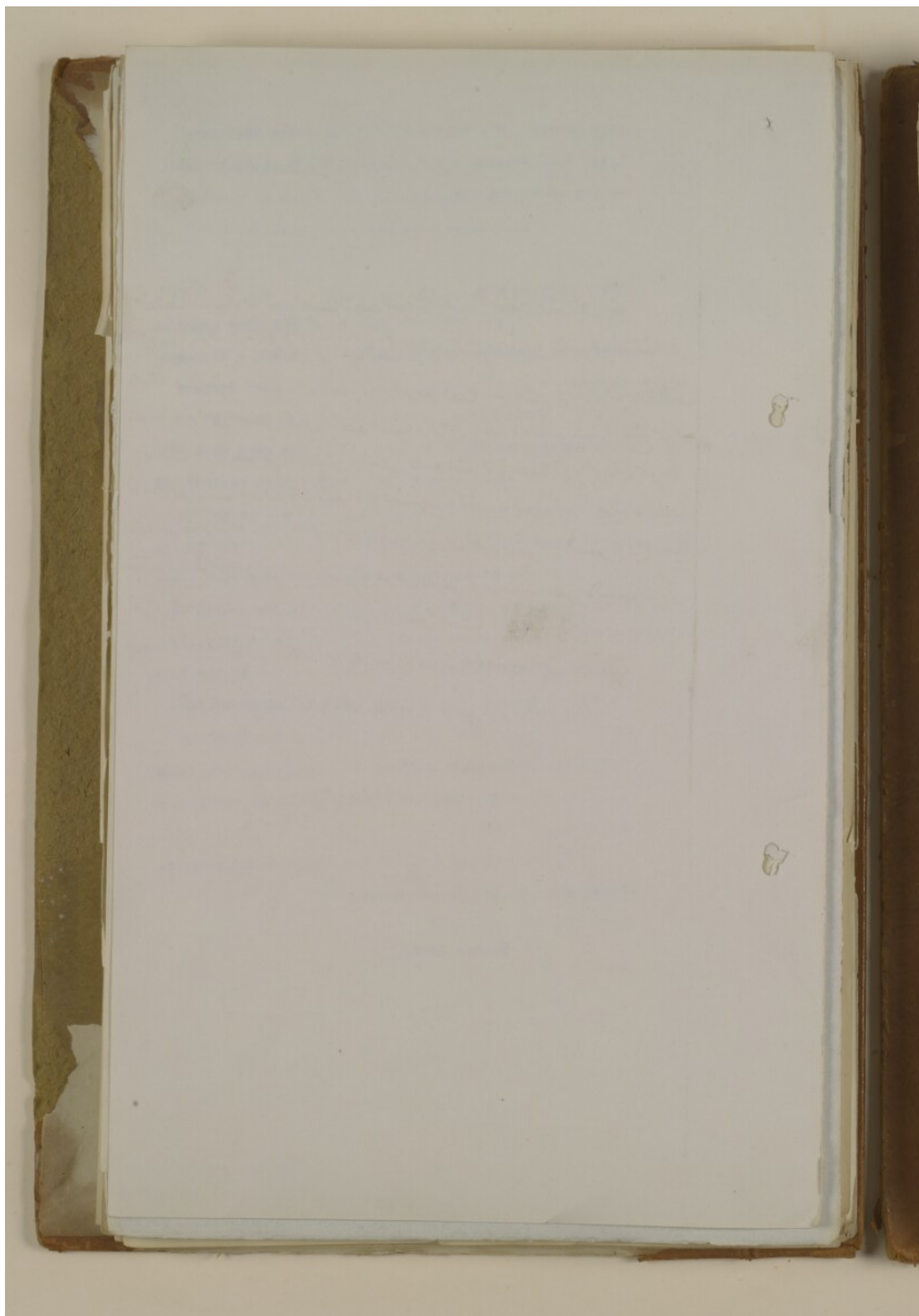
89

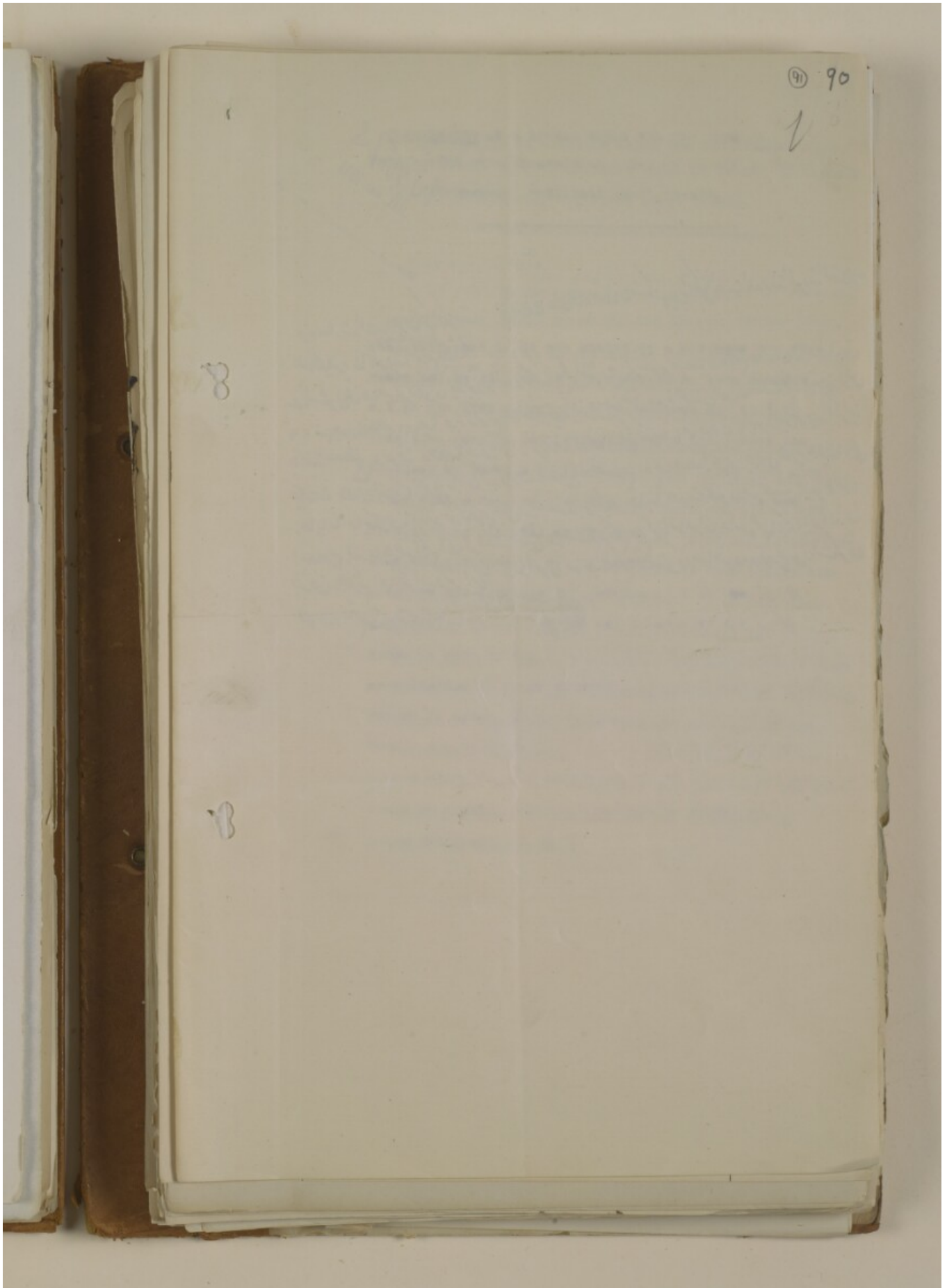
(90)

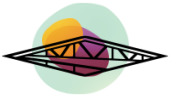
٢٤٥

من قبطا شبيبير بولكل اجنت الدولة البرهية الفيصرية الانكليزية في الكويت
الرجاء بالاجل الامجد الرفيع الفخيم المحبة عمدة الصالحين مبارك الصباح دام بقا ه
عبد الوهاب عن عزيز خاطر لا زلت بخير وسرور بعد لابه بصير في بالكم من مدني عن
سنة وصل اجنبي بيبي ياخذ امتياز لاجل ياخذ اسفنج شيا بطلع من البحر
وذلك الوقت جنابكم مارضيتهم واحسن ماسويت وفي هذه الايام يمكن يجون
ناس كذا لك في دورون مصالح لانفسهم وكتب باليونان ابو شرطي انه اخبر
جنابكم لشكونو مع بصيرة لانه يمكن بصير خبر من هذا الشيء عن الشيوخ ومع رعاياهم
خصوصا لو يحصل لهم امتياز لاجل غوص اللؤلؤ ومن سبب هذا دالك باليونان يذكر
لو يجي احد يطلب امتياز من الشيوخ لاي شيء اننا اعد جناب الشيوخ يعرفنا وياخذ
رئيسنا قبل بكل الامر هذه عا لزم ببيان لجنابكم ودمتم سالمين مودعين
حرر في شهر ربيع الثاني ١٢٩٩ مطابق ٢٩ شهر جولي عام ١٩١١

29 7/11







من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت
الى مرفق على اجهه قبطان شكير يوكهل اجنت الدولة البرية القيصير
الذي كان في الكويت دام بقاة
عبدالرحمن خاظمكم هوان به الورد اخذة لنا بكم المورخ شهر شعبان عام ١٢٩٩ مطابق
٩ شهر جوري عام ١٩١١ م ذكرتم عن الاجنبي الذي من قبل مدة خمس سنوات طرد منا اعتبارا من
ياخذت في وقت رخصنا طلبه دانه بهذه الدفعة جاكم تعريف من حلف بالبورابو شهر ذكرا
يكن في هذه الديار بمجون ناس يدرون مصالح لانفسهم ومن مصالحهم يحصل ضرر علينا وعلى
رعايانا ريد صحننا ان لا نوافقهم قبل ان يستمد برئيتهم غائبا صرت محنون من محبت الجميع ومن
المعلوم له يضرهم ان لا استغنى عن مشورتهم في كل الاحوال ولا عمل شئ الا الذي
يوفق نظرهم ونظر الدولة البرية خالي مول من جبا بكم تطمنون خاطرهم وتعرضون لشكراتي
له ودمتم محروسين في شفاكم





(92) 91

TRANSLATION of a letter dated the 2nd Shaaban 1329
from Sheikh Mubarak-as-Sabah Ruler of Kuwait to Captain
W. H. I. Shakespear, Political Agent Kuwait.

No. 2413

After compliments.

Confidential Dated 26th August 1911.

We have received with the hand of friendship

your letter dated the 2nd Shaaban 1329— 29th

Political Resident.

July 1911, and in it you stated of a stranger who five

years ago asked from us a concession to take sponges

and at the time we rejected his request and that in

this time came to you intimation from his honour the

Resident at Bushire mentioning that in these days poss-

ibly will come people seeking their own profit and

from this profit will arrive loss to us and to our peo-

ple and advising us not to agree to them before ask-

ing for his (Resident's) opinion. I am exceedingly

grateful to the beloved of all (Resident) and as is

known to your honour I ~~cannot do~~ ^{cannot do} ~~not seek profit~~ without your

consultation in every circumstance and I will do naught

except it agree with your view and the view of the

Precious Government. In the expectation from your

honour that you will re-assure him (Resident) and pre-

sent my thanks to him and may you be preserved.

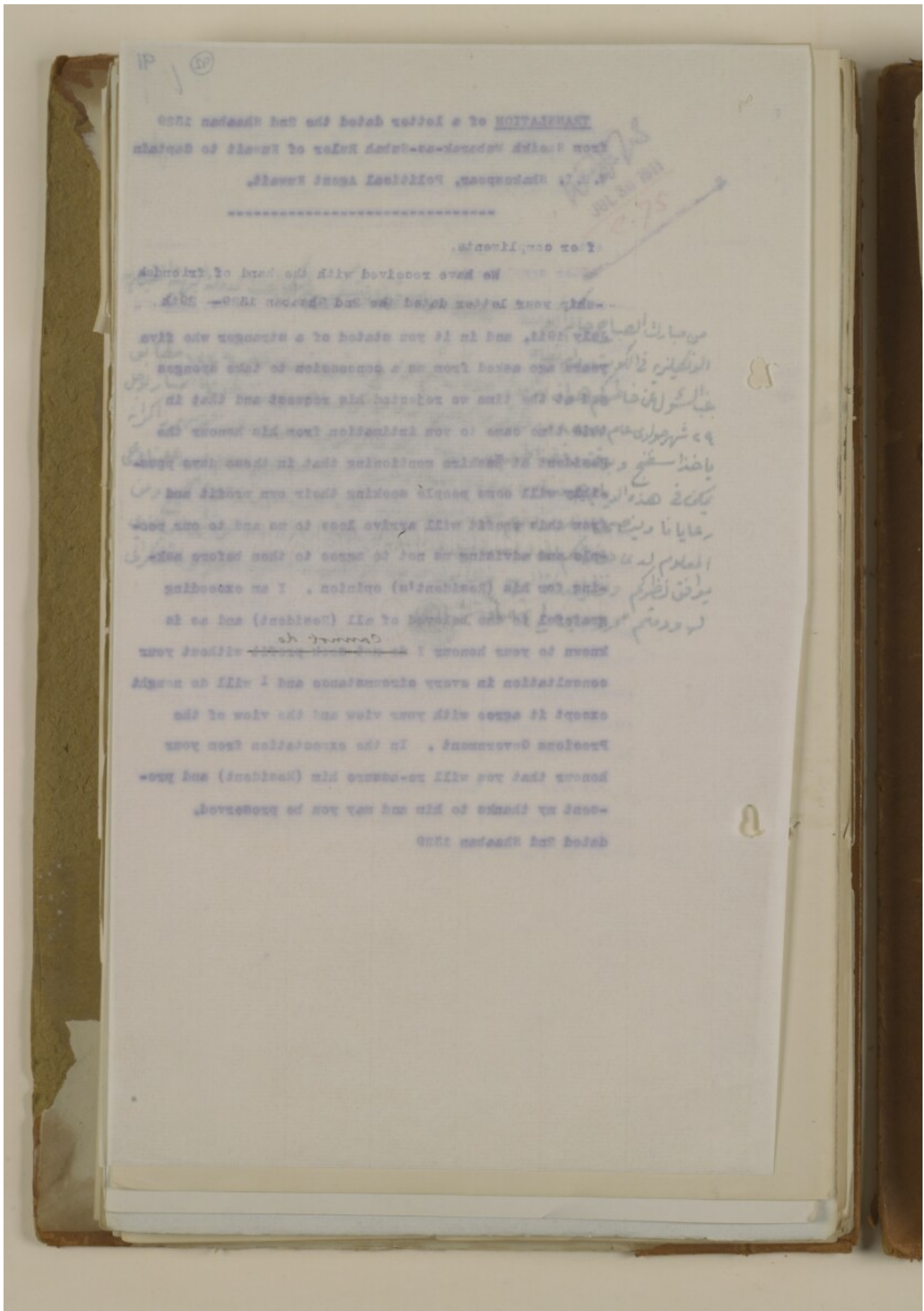
dated 2nd Shaaban 1329

to facilitate the extension of the

firm's X pearl-buying operations to Kuwait.

I have etc.

W.H.I.





DRAFT—(For Approval).

AGENCY.
POLITICAL RESIDENCY, PERSIAN/GULF/

Kuwait
No. C.52

Confidential

Dated 1st AUGUST 1911.

To,

Political Resident,

BUSHIRE.

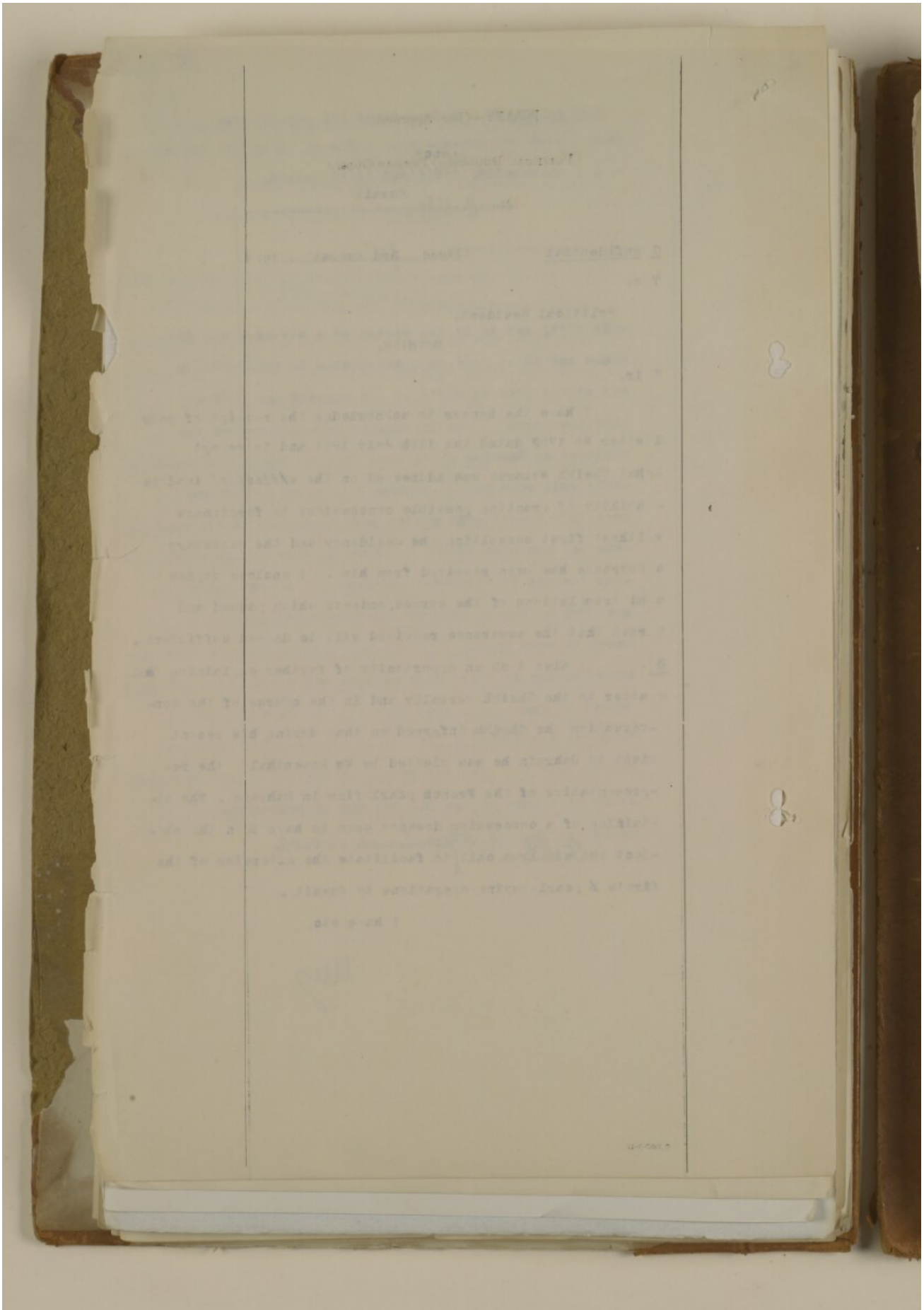
Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 1752 dated the 11th July 1911 and to report that Sheikh Mubarak was addressed on the ~~subject~~ // inadvisability of granting possible concessions to foreigners without first consulting the Residency and the necessary assurance has been received from him. I enclose copies and translations of the correspondence which passed and trust that the assurance received will be deemed sufficient.

2. I also took an opportunity of further explaining the matter to the Sheikh verbally and in the course of the conversation he ~~with~~ informed me that during his recent visit to Bahrain he was visited by Mr Rosenthal, the representative of the French pearl firm in Bahrain. The obtaining of a concession does not seem to have been the object ~~of the~~ ^{which was made probably} call to facilitate the extension of the firm's pearl-buying operations to Kuwait.

I have etc,

My





94 93

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 422 of 1912.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 5th March 1912.

W. H. D. S.
MAR 8 - 1912
C. 29

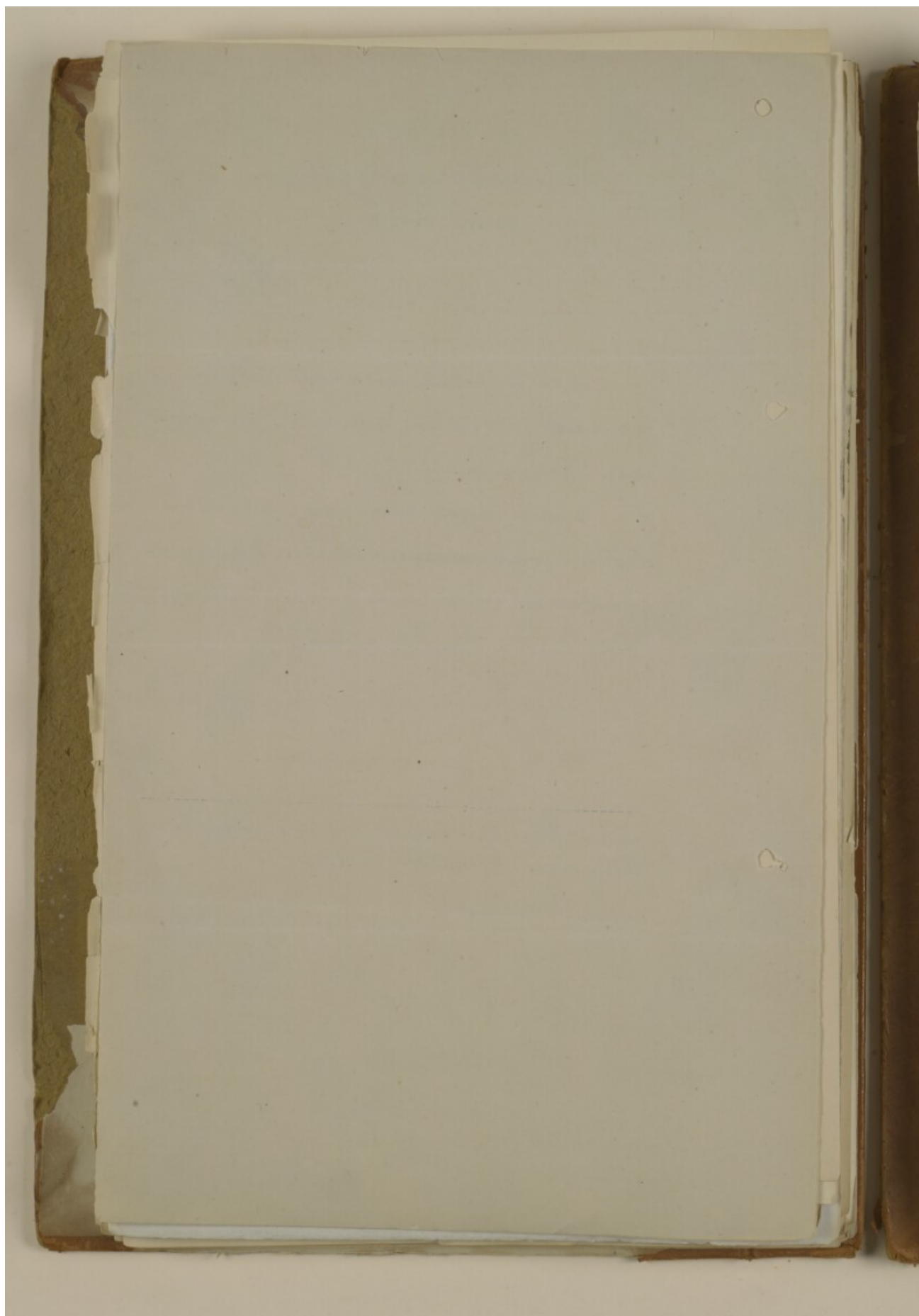
A copy of the undermentioned document with enclosures is forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, with compliments, for information.

2. No action should be taken thereon pending the receipt of a further communication which will be shortly addressed to him.

By Order,

A. T. Wilson
Lieutenant,
Special Assistant.

Foreign Office letter No. 42135 of 24th October 1911 to Tewfik Paasha, with enclosures Nos. 1, 2 and 3.





95 94

This document is the property of His Britannic Majesty's
Government.

EASTERN DEPARTMENT
SECRET SERIES.

October 24

Section 3.

(42135).

No.1.

Sir Edward Grey to Tewfik Pasha.

Foreign Office, October 24, 1911.

Your Highness,

In compliance with the request which, under instructions from your Government, you were good enough to make to me on the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of the agreements concluded by His Majesty's Government with the Trucial Chiefs of Oman and the Sheikhs of Bahrein and Rowait, to which reference is made in the memorandum communicated to Your Highness on the 29th July last.

With respect to these agreements His Majesty's Government have the following observations to make:-

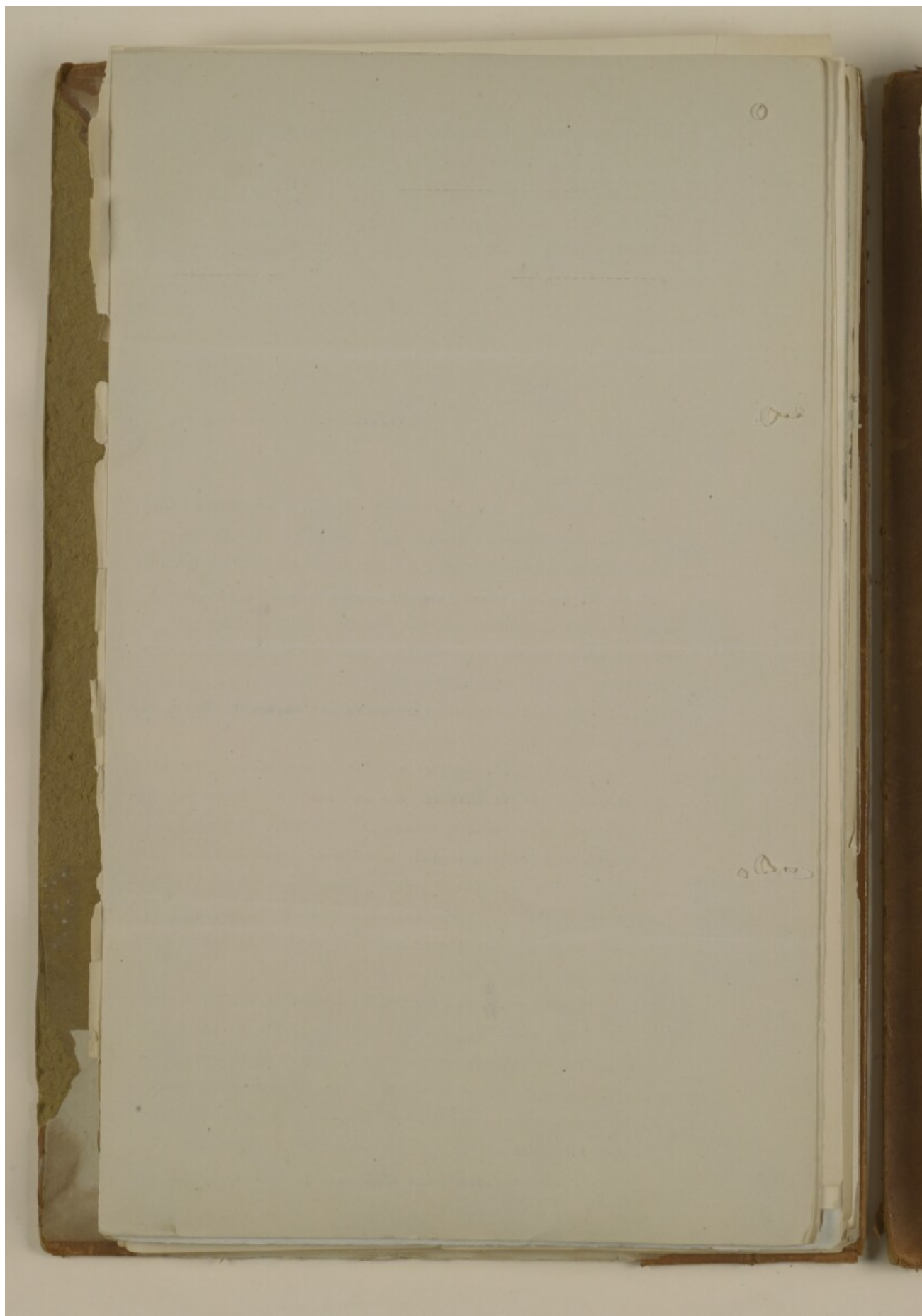
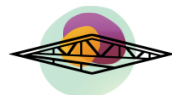
As regards No.1. His Majesty's Government have informed the Sheikh of Rowait that so long as he and his heirs and successors act up to their obligations under the agreement, His Majesty's Government undertake to support them and accord them their good offices. (His Majesty's Government reserve to themselves the right to interpret that term at their discretion.)

His Majesty's Government hold, moreover, a lease of land from the Sheikh of Rowait.

As regards No.4, His Majesty's Government take occasion to remind the Sublime Porte that British rights in the Persian Gulf and on the coast rest not merely on the agreements concluded, and transmitted herewith to the Ottoman Government, but on the customs, consent, and long-established relations between the local chiefs and the Government of India.

His Majesty's Government hope that in the communications

of





96 95

of these agreements, together with the supplementary declarations which are hereby brought to the notice of the Ottoman Government, the Sublime Porte will see proof of His Majesty's Government's good-will and desire to facilitate the conclusion of the negotiations set forth in their abovementioned memorandum.

I have etc.,

E. Grey.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

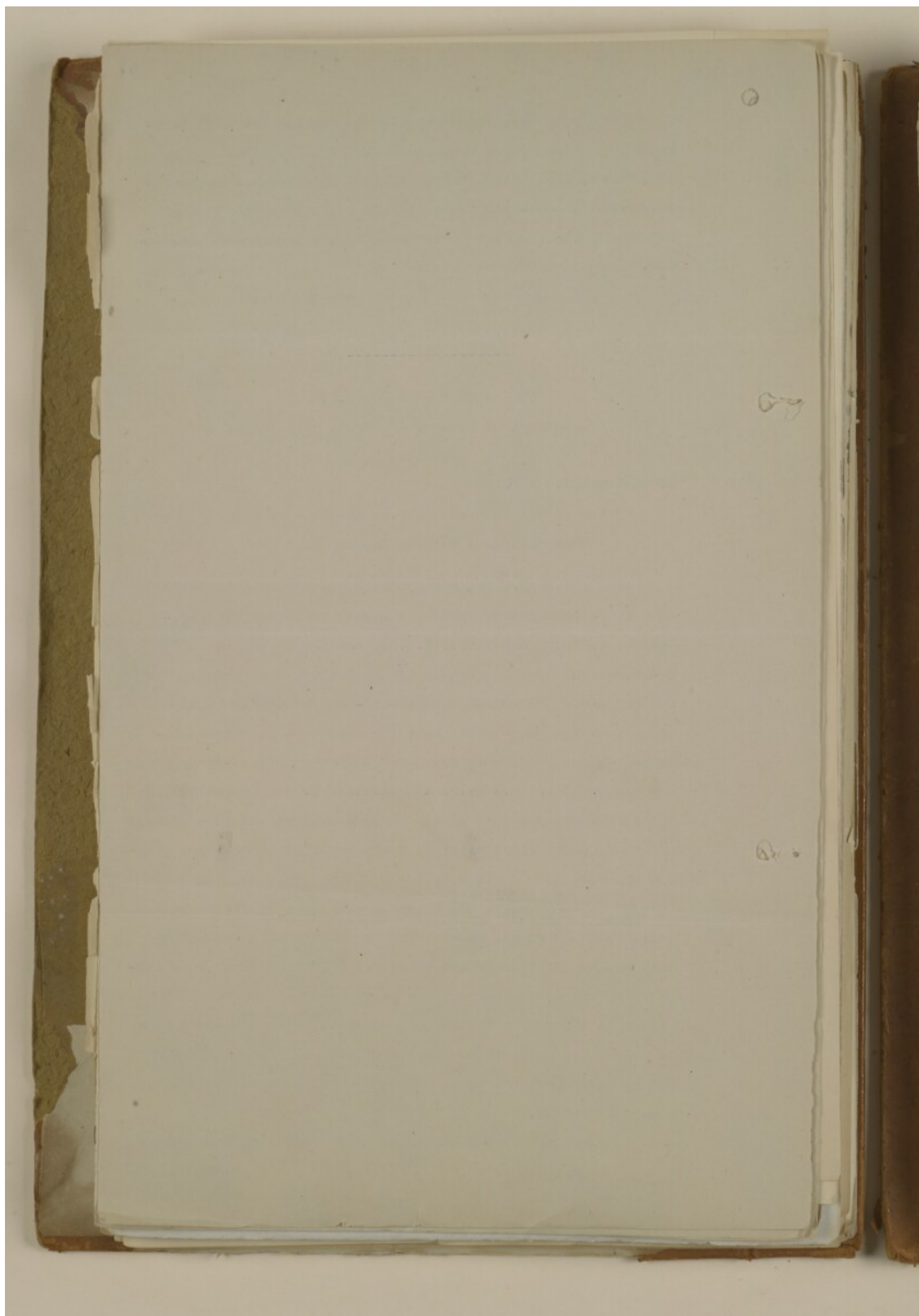
Agreement of January 23, 1899, with Sheikh of
Koweit.

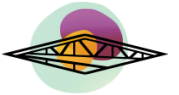
(Translation).

Praise be to God alone (lit. in the name of God Almighty)
("Bissim Illah Ta'alah Shanuho").

The object of writing this lawful and honourable bond is, that it is hereby covenanted and agreed between Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm John Meade, I.S.C., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident, on behalf of the British Government, on the one part, and Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Sheikh Subah, Sheikh of Koweit, on the other part: that the said Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Sheikh Subah, of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself, his heirs and successors, not to receive the agent or representative of any Power or Government at Koweit, or at any other place within the limits of his territory, without the previous sanction of the British Government; and he further binds himself, his heirs and successors, not to cede, sell, lease, mortgage, or give for occupation or for any other purpose, any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for these purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarak which may now be in possession of the subjects of any other Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and honourable
bond,





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bond, Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm John Meade, I.S.C., Her
Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
and Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Sheikh Subah, the former on behalf of
the British Government, and the latter on behalf of himself,
his heirs and successors, do each, in the presence of witnesses
affix their signatures, on this the 10th day of Ramazan 1316,
corresponding with the 23rd day of January 1899.

(L.S.) M.J.Meade,

Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

(L.S.) Mubarak-al-Subah.

Witnesses.

(L.S.) E.Wickham Hore, Captain, I.M.S.

(L.S.) J.Calcott Gaskin,

(L.S.) Muhammad Rahim-bin-Abdul Nebi Saffer.

Enclosure 2 in No.1.

Agreement by Sheikh Mubarak-bin-Subah, Chief of
Koweit.

(translation).

I agree to absolutely prohibit the importation of arms
into Koweit or exportation therefrom, and to enforce this I
have issued a notification and proclamation to all concerned.

Dated this 24th day of Moharrum, 1318 (24th day of May 1900).

(Seal of Mubarak-bin-Subah).

Enclosure 3 in No.1.

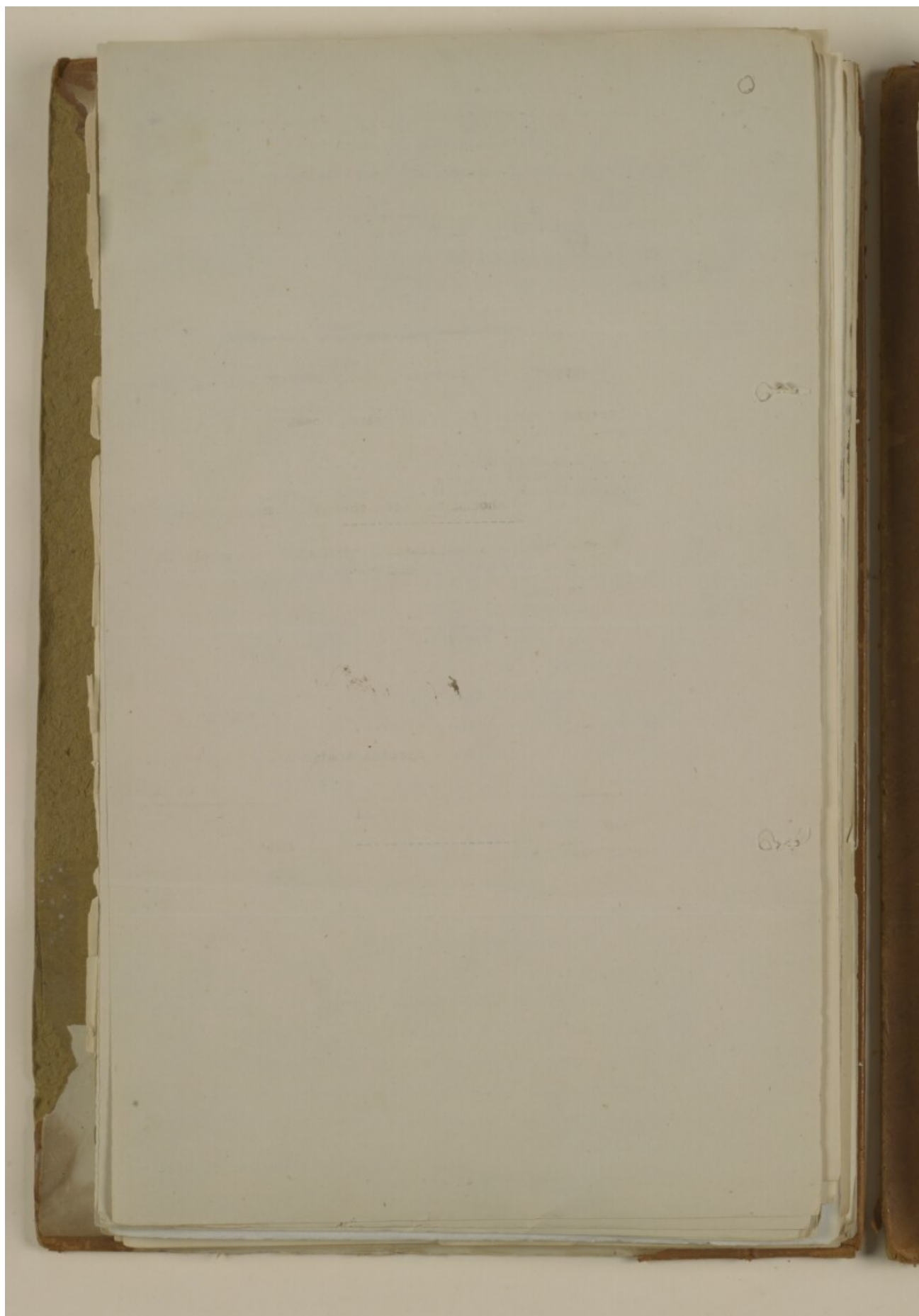
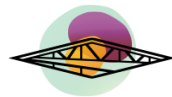
Postal agreement of February 28, 1904, with the
Sheikh of Koweit.

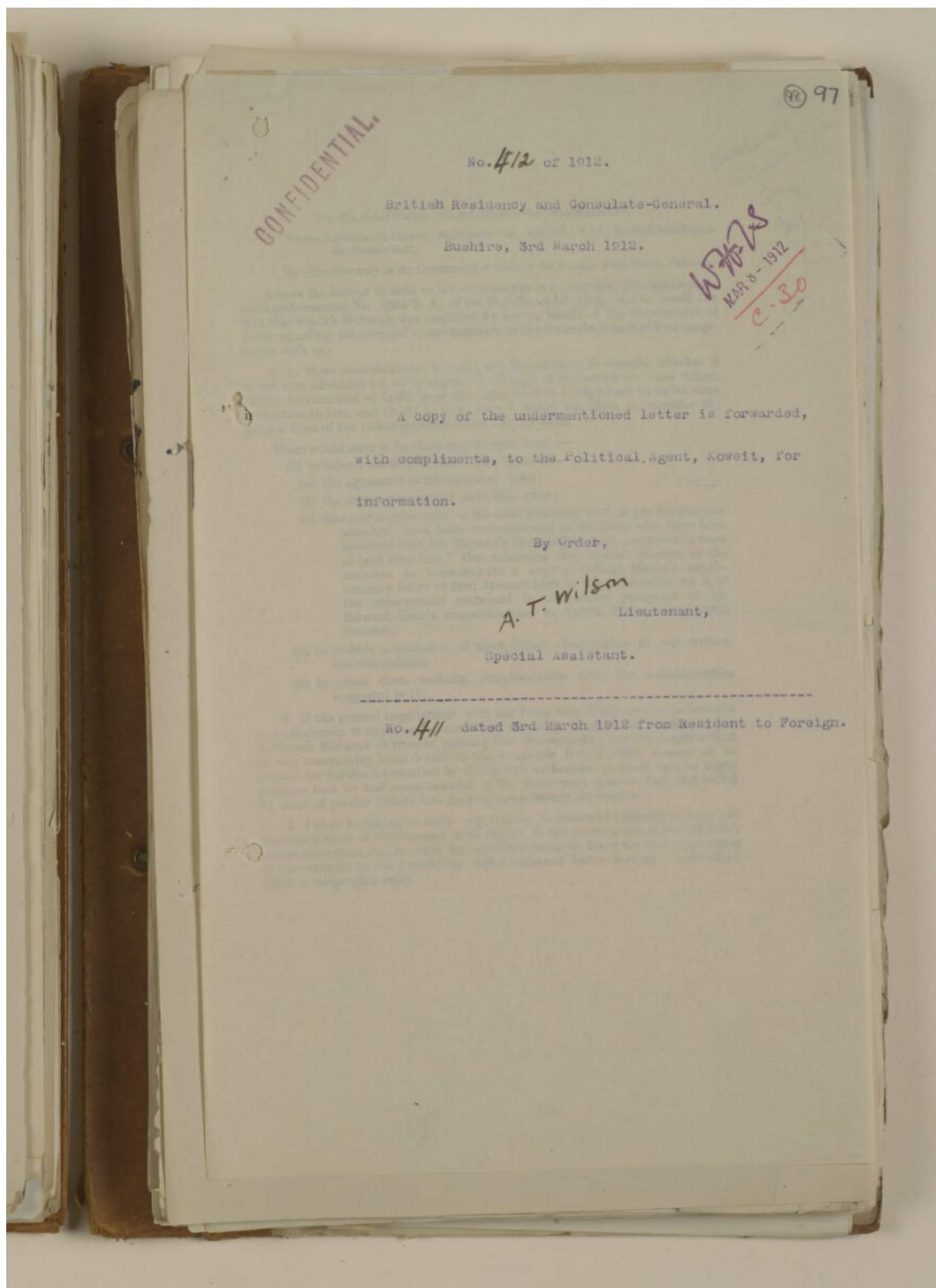
(Translation).

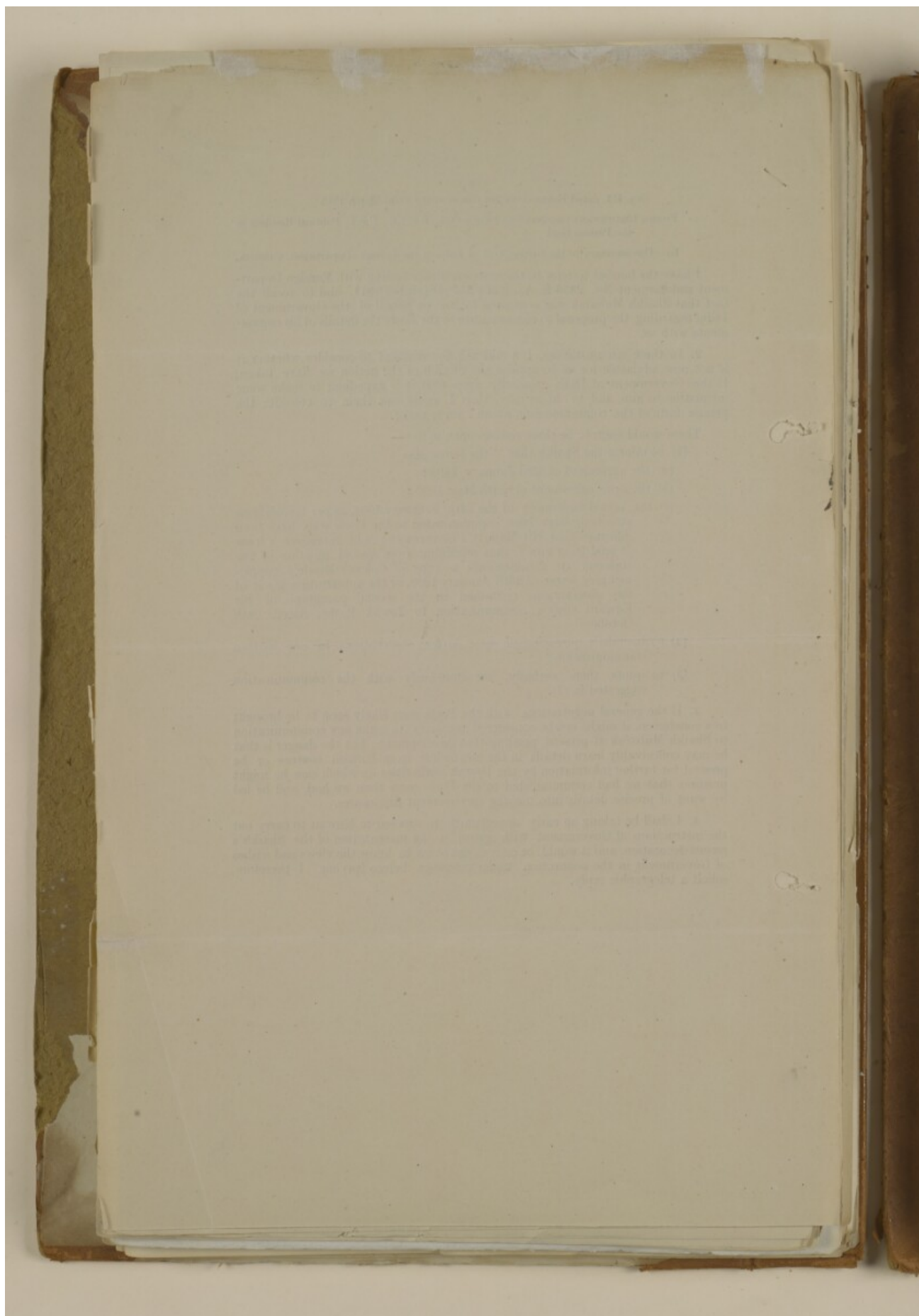
As the British Government has agreed, in accordance with
my desire and for the benefit of traders to establish a post
office at Koweit, I, on my part, agree not to allow the estab-
lishment here of a post-office by any other Government. I ac-
cordingly write this undertaking on behalf of myself and my
successors.

Koweit, the 11th Zil Haj, 1321.
(February 28, 1904).

(seal of Sheikh Mubarak-el-
Subah).









No. 411, dated Bushire, the 3rd (received the 12th) March 1912.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with Foreign Department endorsement No. 2356-E. A., of the 21st December 1911, and to recall the fact that Shaikh Mubarak was consulted by me on behalf of the Government of India regarding the proposal to communicate to the Porte the details of his engagements with us.

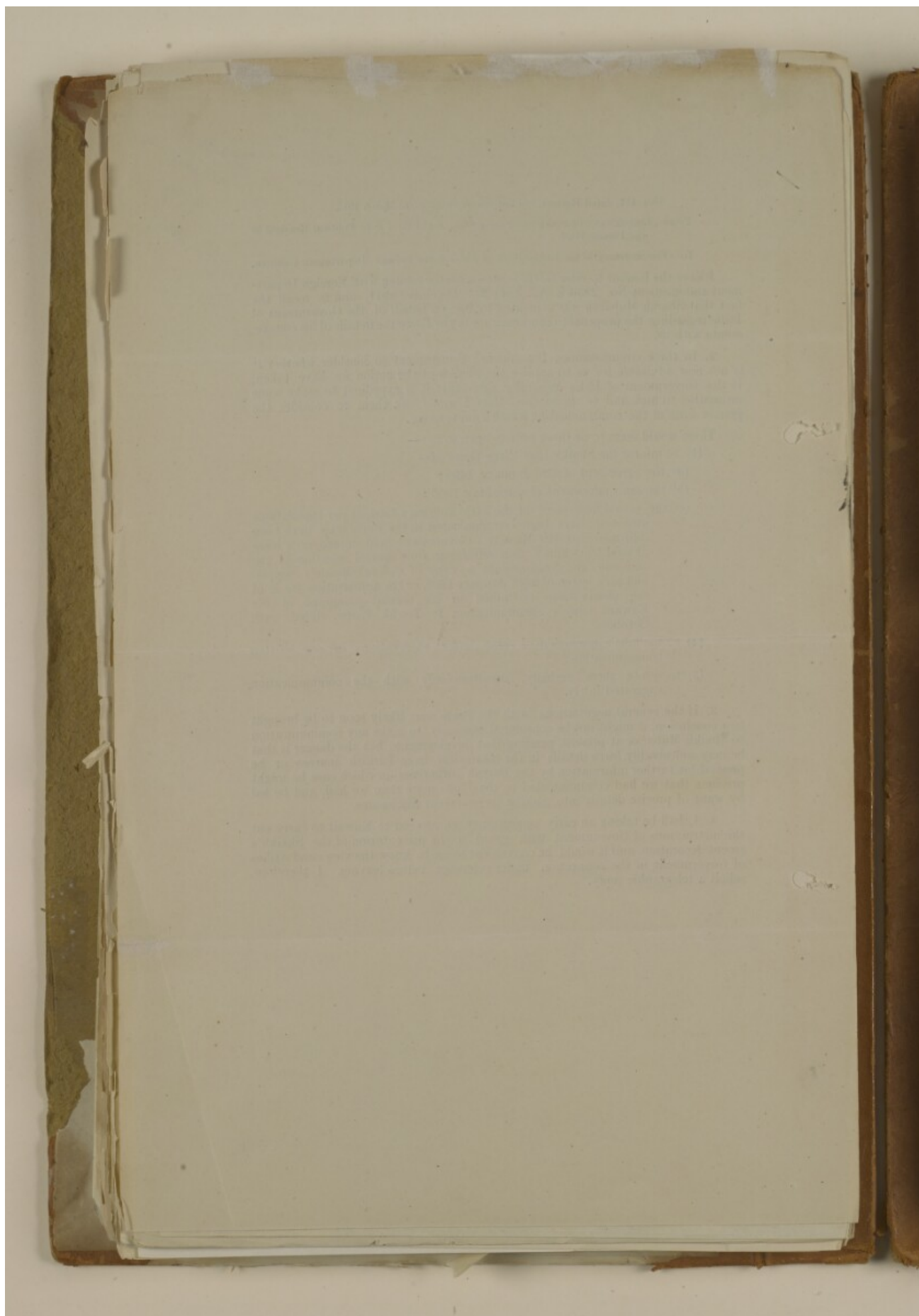
2. In these circumstances, I would ask Government to consider whether it is not now advisable for us to apprise the Shaikh of the action we have taken. If the Government of India generally agree that it is expedient to make some intimation to him, and to do so now, then I would ask them to consider the precise form of the communication which I am to make.

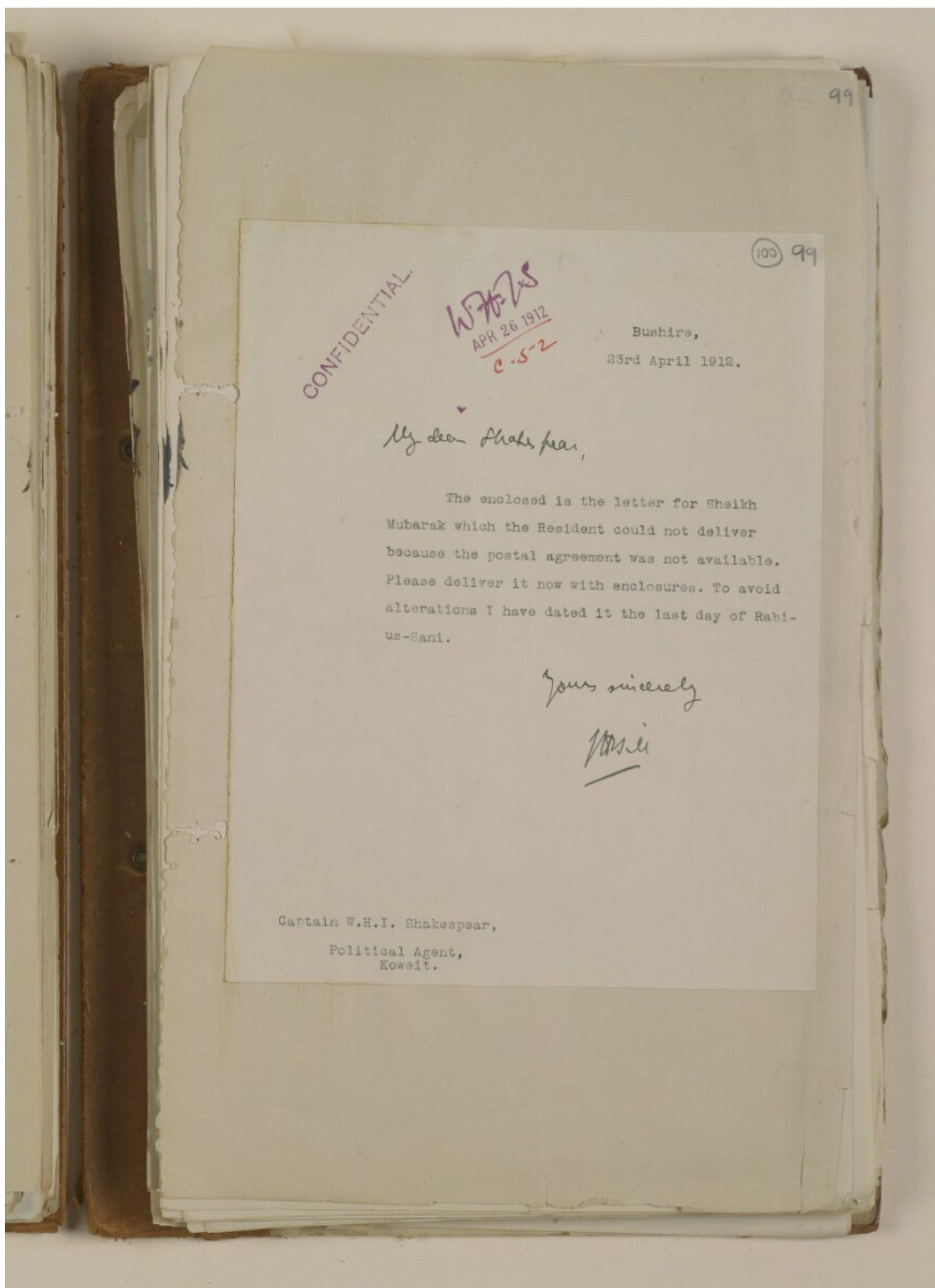
There would seem to be three courses open to us:—

- (1) to inform the Shaikh that "the terms of—
 - (a) the agreement of 23rd January 1899;
 - (b) the arms agreement of 24th May 1900;
 - (c) the postal agreement of the 24th February 1904, as per translations attached, have been communicated to the Porte who have been informed that His Majesty's Government hold, moreover, a lease of land from him," thus refraining from special mention of the omission to communicate a copy of Colonel Meade's supplementary letter of 23rd January 1899, or the substitution for it of the observations contained in the second paragraph of Sir Edward Grey's communication to Tewfik Pasha, dated 24th October;
- (2) to include a quotation of these latter observations in our written communication;
- (3) to quote them verbally, simultaneously with the communication suggested in (1).

3. If the general negotiations with the Porte were likely soon to be brought to a conclusion, it might not be considered necessary to make any communication to Shaikh Mubarak at present, pending that development; but the danger is that he may conceivably learn details in the meanwhile from Turkish sources or be pressed for further information by the Basrah authorities, in which case he might presume that we had communicated to the Porte more than we had, and be led by want of precise details into making inconvenient disclosures.

4. I shall be taking an early opportunity to proceed to Kuwait to carry out the instructions of Government with regard to the presentation of the Shaikh's recent decoration, and it would be convenient to me to know the views and wishes of Government in the connection under reference before leaving. I, therefore, solicit a telegraphic reply.





CONFIDENTIAL

W.H.I.S.
APR 26 1912
C.S-2

Bushire,
23rd April 1912.

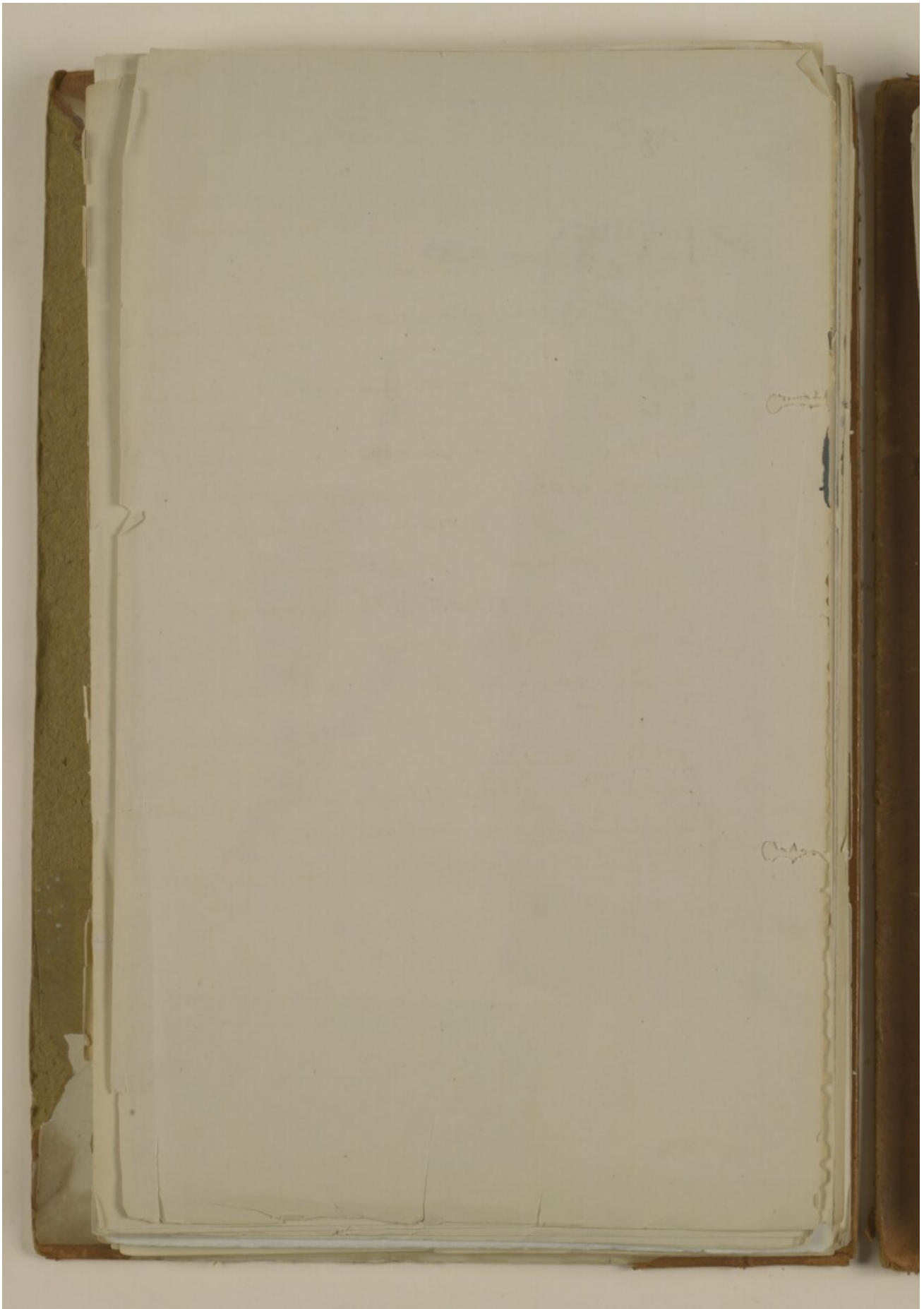
My dear Shakespear,

The enclosed is the letter for Sheikh Mubarak which the Resident could not deliver because the postal agreement was not available. Please deliver it now with enclosures. To avoid alterations I have dated it the last day of Rabi-us-Sani.

Yours sincerely

W.H.I.

Captain W.H.I. Shakespear,
Political Agent,
Koweit.





100 100

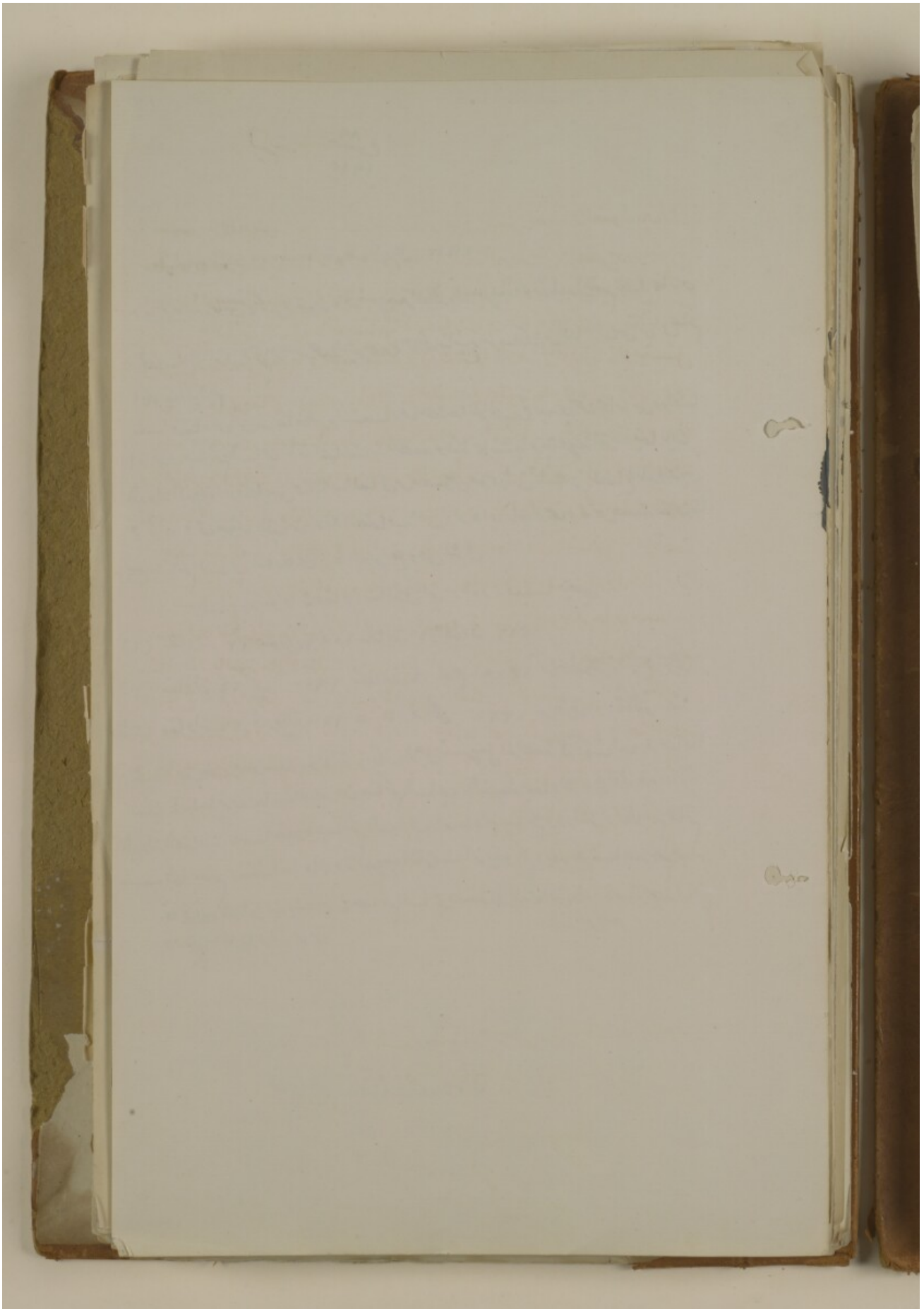
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٨٩
١٩١٢

باليوزنة الانكليز
٢٩ ربيع الثاني ١٢٣٠ مطابق ١٩١٢
من كرنل سر برسي كاكس باليوز وفد من جفرال الدولة البرية الانكليز المقسم في خليج فارس
لجناب الاجل الاميرة الانكليز الاحتم حبيبته عمدة الاحكام الشيخ سر مبارك بن صباح كسي آبي ابي حاكم
الكويت المحترم
عنا اقتناعا عن شريف خاطرهم واستفاد عن صحة حالكم المحيدين بنهني نحن مجازاً من دولتنا
ان تخبر جنابكم السامي بان المباحثات الصمد وقية كانت جارية بهذه القرب فيما بين
الدولة البرية الانكليز والباب العالي من خصوص مواد شئ المنضمين المصالح للدولة
نحو الخليج وفي جواب طلب من دولة العثمانية التي ارادة ان تكون مخبرة عن صفة مقاولتنا
مع جنابكم السامي صارة مخبرة البرهم على وفق الذيل
تسلمت البرهم سوادات مقاولات الذيل التي موجودة بيننا بعضي
(١) مقاوله ٢٣ جنوري ١٨٩٩ مطابق ١٠ رمضان ١٣١٦
(٢) مقاوله ٢٤ ي ١٩٠٠ مطابق ٢٤ محرم ١٣١٨ منصوص تجارة الاسلحة
(٣) مقاوله ٢٤ فيبروري ١٩٠٤ = ١١ ذ الحجة ١٣٢١ من طرف ادارة البوطة
الحال بالحق هذه المراسلة سوادات ذالك لاجل تسهيل المراجعة كذا انك اخبرت الباب
العالي باننا هابزين اجارث الارض من جنابكم السامي بالنسبة بمقاوله نمرة اول قد اخبرت
الدولة العثمانية باننا اخبرنا جنابكم السامي ان مادام جنابكم ووراثكم واطلاكم علمتم
حسب تكاليفكم بمقتضاها فالدولة البرية التزمت ان يقوكم ويبنه لكم مساعدة لهم في جميع
ما يقتضيه المصلحة ان يتضح الى جنابكم السامي صفة المذكرات التي قد وقعت هذه المازم
ورثتم سالمين والسلام

Translation below.

my.





101 102

لبرسم ثنائية

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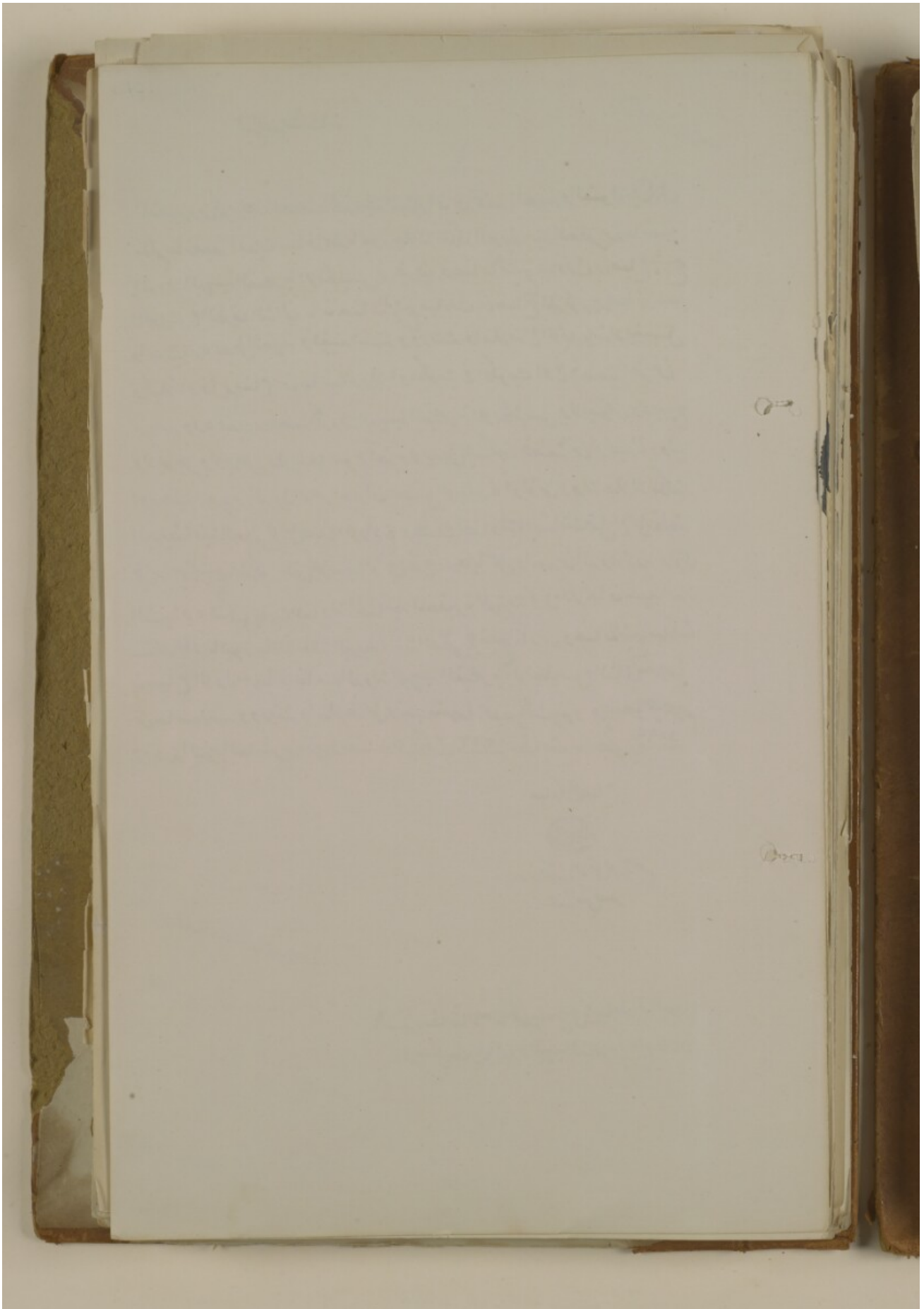
المقصود من تحرير هذه الصك الحثانية الاعتبار ان قد تحفظ العرب والعقول بين كل ملكم جانيميد اذ من ساف كار باليون جلالة الملكة البريطانية العظمى من جانب الدولة البرهية القصرية الانكليز في طرف وجنا ب الشخ مبارك بن صباح شيخ الكويت في الطرف الثاني بان جنا ب الشخ مبارك بن صباح المذكور برضاة واختياره بعض العرب وبقية نفسه وورثته واخلافه الى الابد بان لا يغسل وكيلا او قائم مقام من جانب دولة او حكومية في الكويت او في قطعة اخرى من حدوده بغير رخصة له دولة البرهية القصرية الانكليز ولا يتوض ولا يبيع ولا يوهب ولا يرهق ولا ينقل بنوع آخر ولا يعطى لسكون قطعة من ارضه الى دولة او رعية احده من الدول الاخر بغير ان يحصل الاجازة اولاً من دولة جلالة الملكة البريطانية العظمى لاجل هذه الارادة وهذه المقاوله ايضا تشمل على كل قطعة في اراضي الشخ المذكور التي تكون حالاً في تصرف رعايا كل واحد من الدول الغير والاصل الشهاده لتكبل هذه المقاوله الحثانية المعتبرة المحترمة كل ملكم جانيميد انين ساف كار باليون جلالة الملكة البريطانية العظمى في خليج فارس وجنا ب الشخ مبارك بن صباح الاول منهما من جانب الدولة البرهية القصرية الانكليز والثاني منهما من جانب نفسه وورثته واخلافه كل واحد منهما بحضر الشهود وضعتهم في هذا اليوم العاشر من شهر رمضان المبارك سنة ١٢١٦ مطابق ٢٣ جنوري سنة ١٨٩٩

مبارك الصباح

شهد بذلك الاقل محمد رحيم
بن عبد النبي صفر

Translation into

السوا مطاباً لصلحه صححه مستريل نايب اول البايون
وقررل جنرال الدولة البرهية القصرية في خليج فارس





103 102

Translation of the Secret Agreement between the British Government
and Sheikh Mubarak dated the 23rd of January 1899 .

The object of writing this lawful and honourable bond is that it is hereby covenanted and agreed between Lt-Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.C. Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident on behalf of the British Govt: on the one part and Sheikh Mubarak bin Sheikh Sabah Sheikh of Koweit on the other part, that the said Sheikh Mubarak bin Sheikh Sabah of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself, his heirs and successors not to receive the Agent or Representative of any power or Government at Koweit or at any other place within the limits of his territory without the previous sanction of the British Government ; and he further binds himself his heirs and successors not to cede sell lease mortgage or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the Govt: or subjects of any other power without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for these purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarak which may now be in the possession of the subject of any other Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and honourable bond , Lt-Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.C. Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and Sheikh Mubarak bin Sheikh Sabah , the former on behalf of the British Government and the latter on behalf of himself his heirs and successors do each in the presence of witnesses affix their signatures on this the 10th day of Ramazan 1316 corresponding to the 23rd day of January 1899.

(sgd) M.J.Meade.

(sgd) Mubarak-al-Sabah.

Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

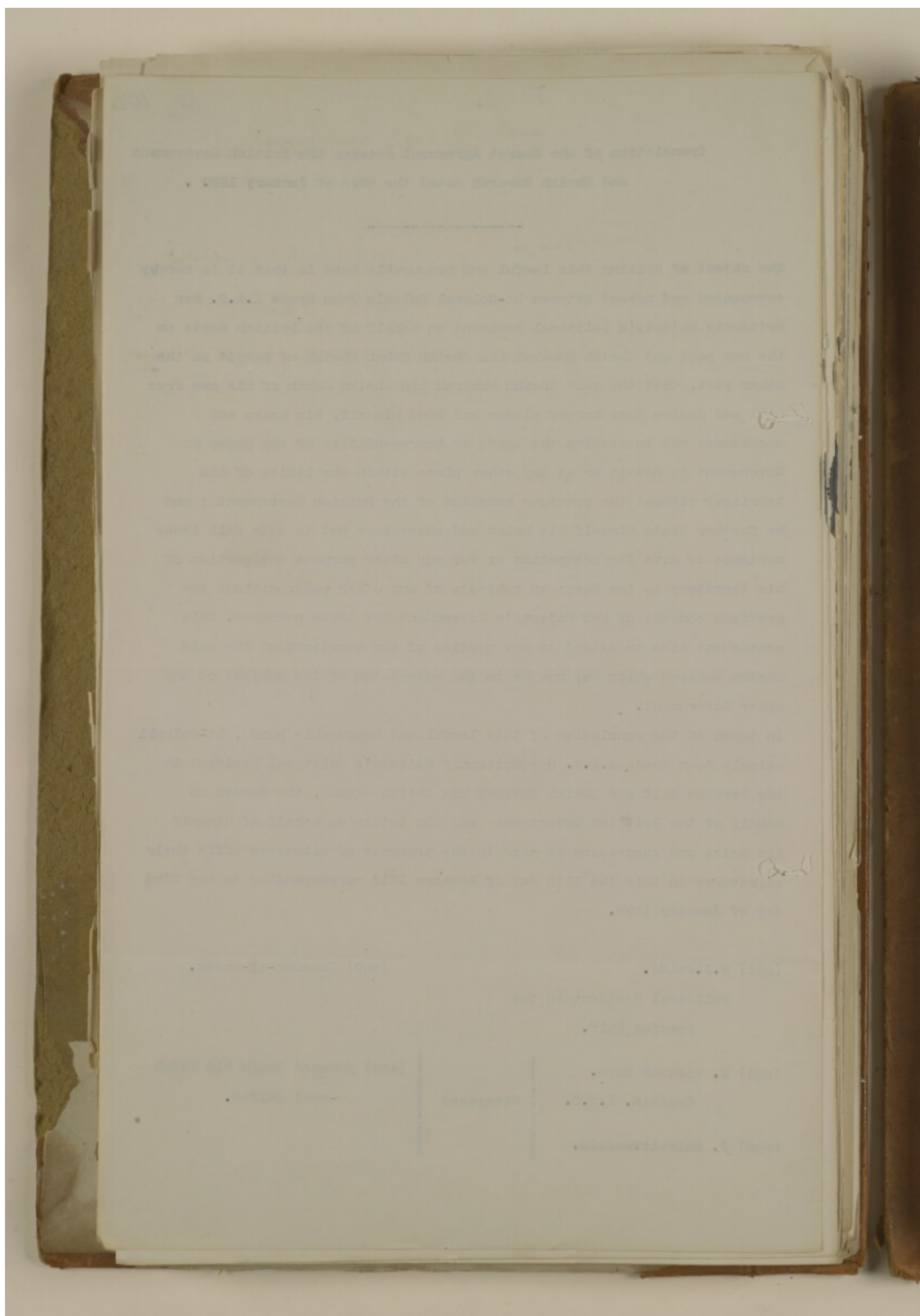
(sgd) E. Wickham Hore.

Captain. I.M.S.

Witnesses

(sgd) Mohamed Rahim bin Abdul
-nebi Saffer.

(sgd) J. Calcatt.Gaskin.





104 103

COPY

نعم الشيخ مبارك بن صباح حاكم الكويت

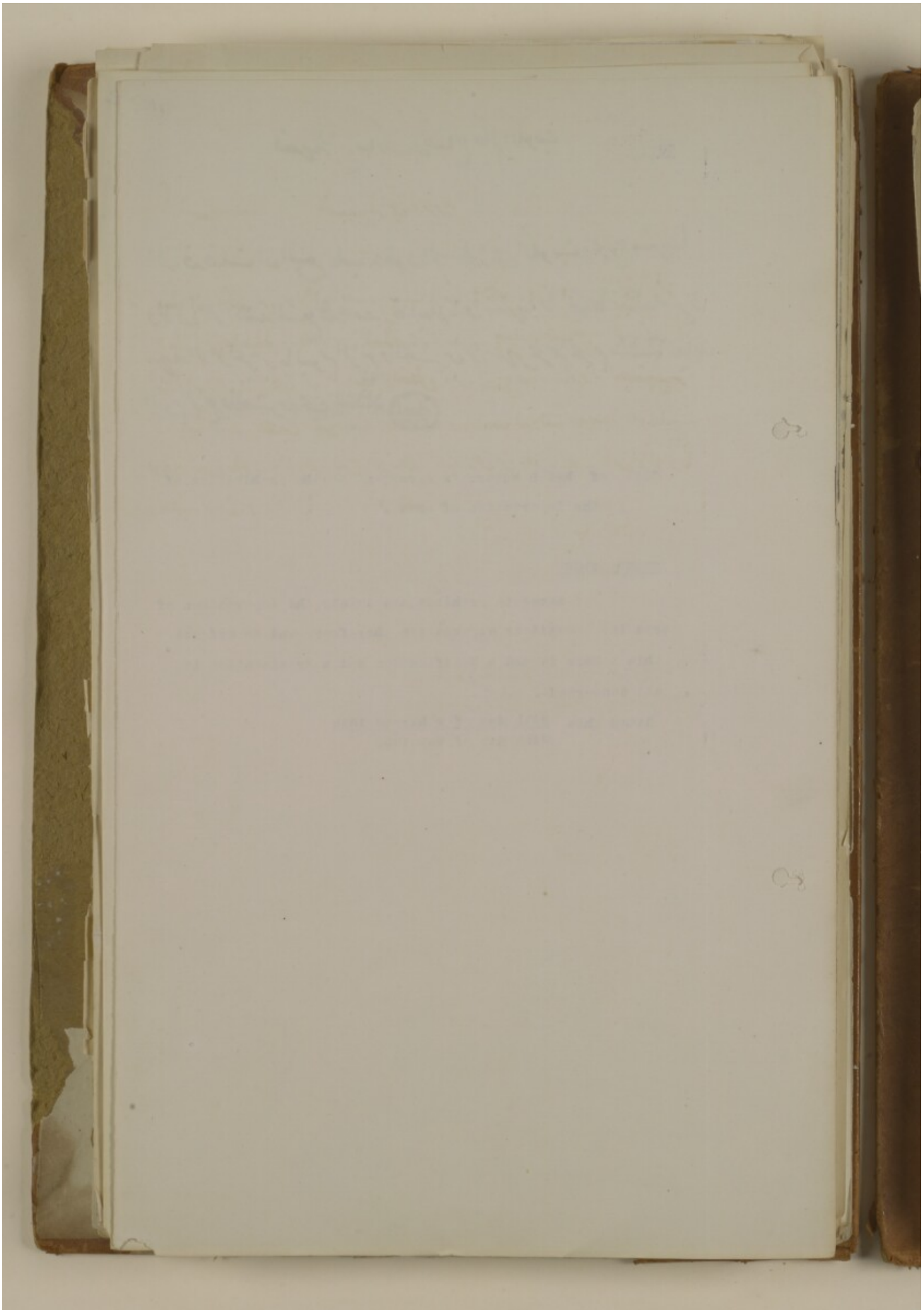
اني قد قبلت ان امنع كلية دخول الاسلحة في الكويت والخروج منها
ولاجل اجراء هذا المنع قد صدرت اعلانا واشتريها را الى كافة الباشرين
برهن الامر محرراً باليوم الرابع والعشرين من شهر محرم الحرام ١٣١٨ مطابق
اليوم الرابع والعشرين من سنة ١٩٠٠ (الصاد)

COPY of Sheikh Mubarak's Agreement to the prohibition of
the importation of arms .

TRANSLATION

I agree to prohibit absolutely the importation of
arms into Kuwait or exportation therefrom, and to enforce
this I have issued a Notification and a Proclamation to
all concerned .

Dated this 24th day of Moharram 1318
24th day of May 1900





OFFICE COPY.

105 104

بسم الله تعالى
السيد الاعلى المآثر

بناء على استحضارنا ولاجل راحة رعيتنا التجار من خصوص البوستان التي تترتب
في بلدنا من جانب الدولة البهسية العنصرية الانكليزية صار ذلك موقع الاستحسان
من الطرفين وعلى هذا القرار اننا لا نعطي اذن لجعل بوستان دولة اجنبية
في طرفنا فقط هذه البوستان تترتب من جانب الدولة البهسية الانكليزية
لا غير احد يكون وعلى هذا القرار تحرر هذا اعنا وعن من يكون بعدنا من اولادنا
وعليه الاعتماد ولاجل البيان تحرر هذا في ١٣٢١
صحيح
مبارك الصباح

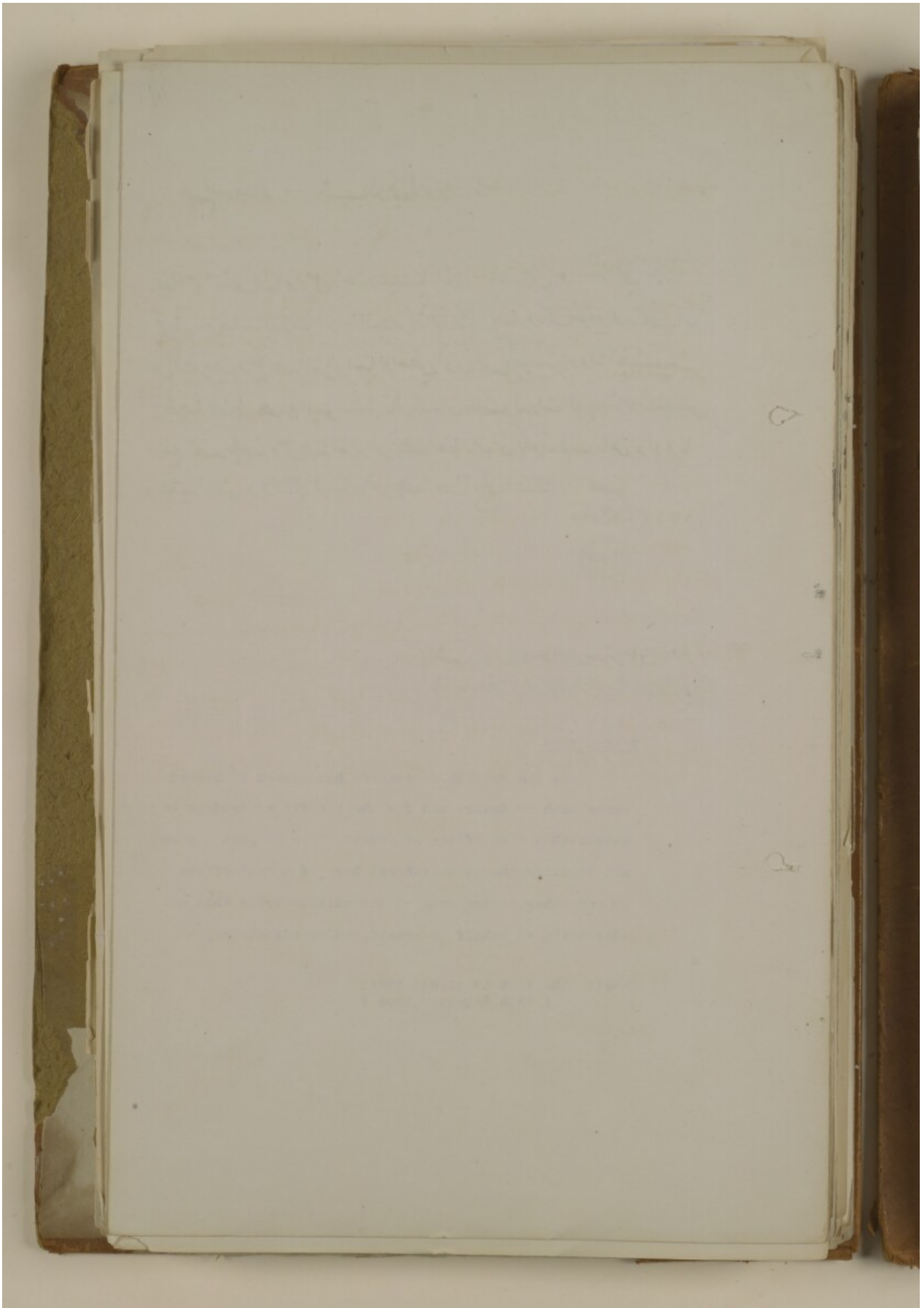
(مبارك)

المبارك مطابق لاصوله صححه من قبل نائب اول
البايون وقدر من جنرال الدولة البهسية العنصرية في خليج فارس

TRANSLATION

As the British Government has agreed in accordance with my desire and for the benefit of traders to establish a Post Office at Koweit, I, on my part, agree not to allow the establishment here of a Post-Office by any other Government. I accordingly write this undertaking on behalf of myself and my successors.

Koweit the 11th Zu-al-Haj 1321
(28th February 1904)





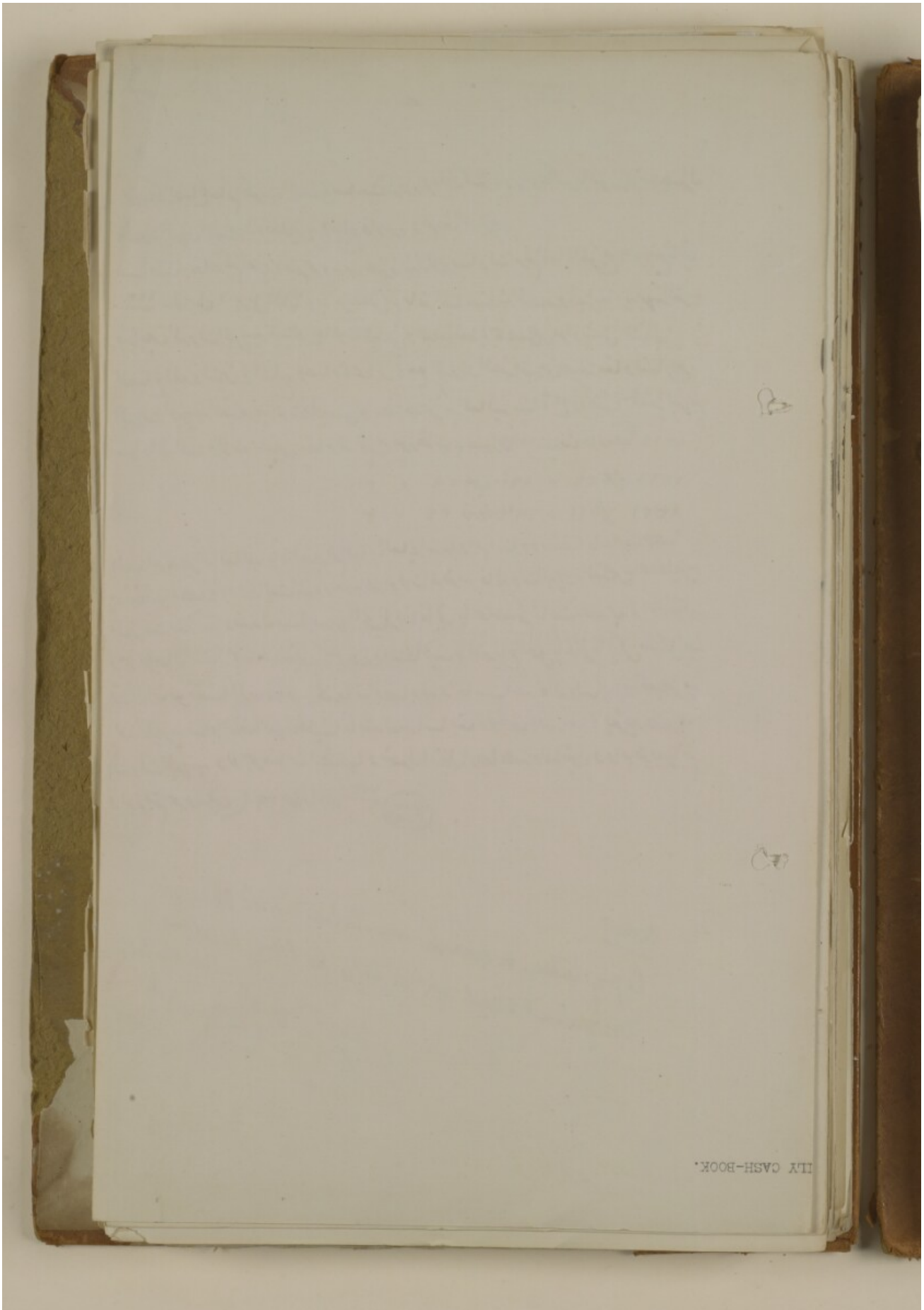
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4.

105
106
MAY 6 - 1912

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت المحض صاحب الشرف والجلال كشفاً برسي كاس باليونان فوسل جنرال
الدول البرية القيصري الانكليزية في خليج فارس دام بقا امين
عنا اقتنا وخاطركم العزيز دمتهم محروسين هون باللوحيات ولت اركم العالي المورخ ٢٩ ربيع ثاني
١٣٤٠ مطابق ١ أبريل ١٩٢١ و به امر حضرتكم بان المباحثات الصدفية جارية بهذه القرب
فيما بين الدول البرية القيصري الانكليزي والباب العالي بخصوص موارد شئ المنظمين
المصالح للدولتين في الخليج وصاروا مخابرة مع الدول العثمانية عن صفقة مقاولتنا مع
الدول البرية القيصري الانكليزي بواطة حضرتكم العاليه بناء على ذلك سلمتم اليهم
سواداة المقاولات اعني مقاوله شمس مورخه ٢٣ جنور ١٨٩٩ مطابق ١٠ رمضان ١٣١٦
٢ " ٢٤ " ١٩٠٠ " ٢٤ " ٢٤ محرم ١٣١٨
٣ " ٢٤ " ١٩٠٤ " ١١ " ١١ فالحج ١٣٢١
الضما امر حضرتكم العاليه بان اخبرتم الباب العالي انه ما دام اننا وورثتنا واخلقنا عملنا
بمقتضا وهذه التكاليف المده روجه بالمقاولات المرفقه فالدول البرية القيصري الانكليزية
اللزمت بقوتنا وقبوله مساعدتها الجيده لنا فاني يا مخلصكم ثابت عندي ذلك
و على كل حال اننا مستعدين على هذه التكاليف بالقول والعمل باعظم ما يمكن من قبل الله
تعالى ان يوفقنا لارضائكم بالمخدرات الصارقه واما مساعدته الدول البرية القيصري
الانكليزية لنا والتفانيها علينا ثابتة لدينا سابق ولاحق الله تعالى يعزبه هذه
الدول البرية ولا يجوز من لطفها ونعمول انظارها هذه والمأمول دوام توجهاكم
ولوزتم محروسين ١٩ جماد اول ١٣٤٠ (الصباح)

Note
Copy taken & rough translation made below -
original sent in to the POC Result -
Rushdie
8/2





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1414, dated Bushire, the 13th (received 22nd) July 1912.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

With reference to my letter No. 411, dated 3rd March 1912, and to the Government of India's reply thereto,* I have the honour to forward, for the

* Telegram No. S. 181, dated 11th April 1912.
Resident to Shaikh of Kuwait, dated 18th April 1912.
Shaikh of Kuwait, to Resident, dated 7th May 1912.

information of Government, a copy of the letter addressed by me in due course to Shaikh Mubarak, together with his reply.

Translation of a letter dated 18th April 1912 (=1st Rabi II), from Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Shaikh Sir Mubarak as Subah, K.C.I.E., Ruler of Kuwait.

After compliments.—I am authorised by my Government to inform Your Excellency that friendly discussion has recently been in progress between the British Government and the Sublime Porte regarding various matters of interest to both Governments in the Persian Gulf, and in reply to a request from the Turkish Government to be informed as to the nature of our agreements with Your Excellency a communication has been made to them on the following lines.

Copies have been furnished to them of the following agreements which exist between us, viz:—

- (i) The agreement of the 23rd January 1893 (=10th Ramazan 1316).
- (ii) The agreement of the 24th May 1900 (=24th Moharram 1318) in connection with the Arms Traffic.
- (iii) The agreement of the 24th February 1904 (=11th Zu-al-Haj 1321) regarding the Post Office.

I attach copies of them for convenience of reference.

The Porte has also been informed that we hold a lease of land from Your Excellency.

With reference to agreement No. (i), the Turkish Government were informed that we had intimated to Your Excellency that so long as you, your heirs and successors acted up to your obligations under it, His Majesty's Government undertook to support you and afford you their good offices.

It has been thought advisable to explain to Your Excellency the nature of the discussions which have taken place.

This is what was necessary, and may you be preserved.

Translation of a letter dated 19th Jamadi I 1330 (=7th May 1912), from Shaikh Sir Mubarak as Subah, Ruler of Kuwait, to Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

After compliments.—I had the honour to receive your esteemed letter dated 29th Rabi II 1330, equivalent to 18th April 1912, in which you have intimated that friendly negotiations had recently been in progress between His Britannic Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte with regard to several matters touching the interests of the two Governments in the Gulf, and that the Turkish



Government had been informed of the terms of my agreement with the British Government. You have therefore furnished them with copies of the agreements *i.e.*—

No. 1, dated 23rd January 1899=10th Ramazan 1316.

No. 2, dated 24th May 1900=24th Moharram 1318.

No. 3, dated 24th February 1904=11th Zu-al-Haj 1321.

Your honour has also stated that you have informed the Porte that as long as I and my heirs and successors acted up to the obligations set forth in the agreements referred to, the British Government undertake to support us and afford us their good offices. I, your friend, consider this as an established fact, and in any case we will, God willing, adhere to these obligations by word and deed to the highest possible degree. We pray to God that we may succeed in winning your satisfaction by rendering sincere services.

As to the assistance of the British Government and their kindness to me, they are quite proved to me alike in the past and at present.

May God support this exalted Government and not deprive us of their favour and kind consideration.

I trust that your consideration will endure and that you may always remain preserved.



CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2102 of 1913.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 10th July 1913.

From

Lieut-Colonel Sir Percy Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

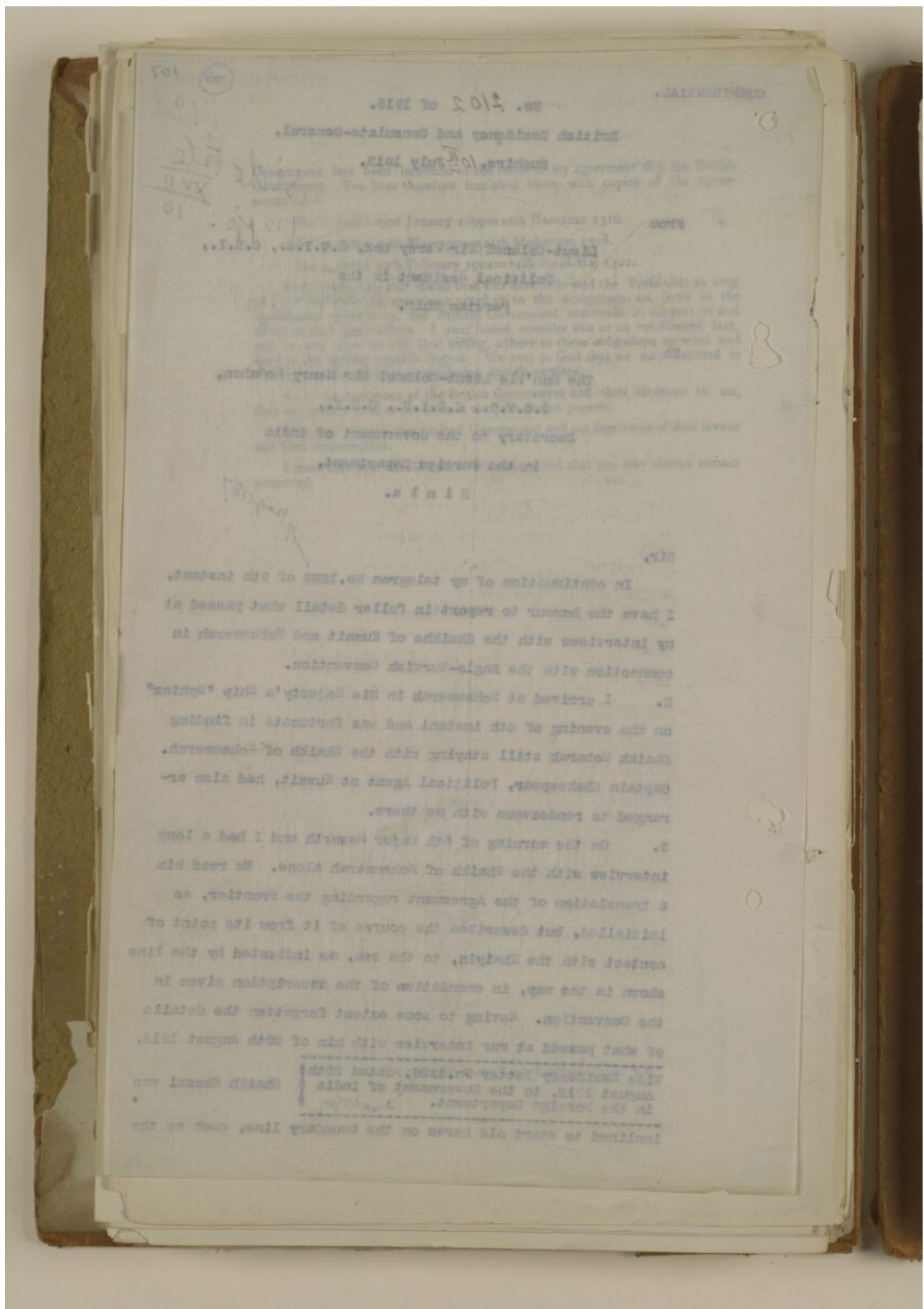
The Hon'ble Lieut-Colonel Sir Henry McMahon,
G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S i m l a.

Sir,

In continuation of my telegram No. 1223 of 9th instant, I have the honour to report in fuller detail what passed at my interviews with the Shaikhs of Kuwait and Mohammerah in connection with the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

2. I arrived at Mohammerah in His Majesty's Ship "Sphinx" on the evening of 4th instant and was fortunate in finding Shaikh Mubarak still staying with the Shaikh of Mohammerah. Captain Shakespear, Political Agent at Kuwait, had also arranged to rendezvous with me there.

3. On the morning of 5th Major Haworth and I had a long interview with the Shaikh of Mohammerah alone. We read him a translation of the Agreement regarding the Frontier, as initialled, but described the course of it from its point of contact with the Khaiyin, to the sea, as indicated by the line shown in the map, in emendation of the description given in the Convention. Having to some extent forgotten the details of what passed at our interview with him of 20th August 1912, I have written to the Government of India, dated 25th August 1912, to the Government of India in the Foreign Department. Shaikh Khazal was inclined to start old hares on the boundary line, such as the





mid-channel theory; but on the whole, except for the necessity of travelling over old ground again, we had little trouble in this connection. The Shaikh did not again raise the question of the definition of "connection", in reference to the relation of islands to the main-land at low water; while on the subject of Hakki Pasha's reservation in regard to the Khaiyin lands, he was surprisingly sensible, confident no doubt in the thought that in view of established local facts, it has no concrete significance.

4. We then went on to deal with the question of the Riverain Commission, in which connection translations of such of the provisions of the Convention as affect Mohammerah were read and explained to the Shaikh. He was very uneasy as to the probably troublesome results which might be expected to ensue from the control of the whole of the waters of the river, and vessels afloat thereon, by a Turkish Commission, and from the inevitable activities of its subordinate employes. In discussing this problem he again raised the question of the mid-channel line, arguing that from the point where the Karun, a Persian river, joins the Shatt-al-Arab, it surely was only fair that Persia should share the possession of the river. But as Haji Rais was not present on this occasion and we had already been talking for over 3 hours and the Shaikh was getting tired, we were unable to dispose of the question of the Commission at this sitting and therefore adjourned, leaving the translation with the Shaikh for further study and discussion with Haji Rais, and with the intention of finishing with it at the Shaikh's return visit to me. Meanwhile, and indeed all along, the latter expressed his firm intention, after talking things out, to comply with our final advice in the matter.

5. Before parting company I asked him to arrange with his guest, Shaikh Mobarak, for me to visit him the following forenoon, and told Shaikh Khazal briefly what I had to say to the former. He himself took a sensible view of the question of the location of a Turkish Agent, recognising its one convenient aspect



101

mid-channel theory; but on the whole, except for the necessity of travelling over old ground again, we had little trouble in this connection. The Khalifa did not again raise the question of the definition of "connection", in reference to the relation of islands to the main-land at low water; while on the subject of Hakeel Fasha's reservation in regard to the Khalifa's lands, he was surprisingly sensible, committing no doubt in the thought that in view of established local facts, it was no concrete significance.

4. We then went on to deal with the question of the Hakeel Fasha Commission, in which connection translations of such of the provisions of the Convention as affect Hakeel Fasha were read and explained to the Khalifa. He was very uneasy as to the probability of trouble arising from the fact that he expected to secure from the control of the whole of the waters of the river, and vessels effect thereof, by a British Commission, and from the inevitable activities of its subordinate employees. In discussing this problem he again raised the question of the mid-channel line, arguing that from the point where the Hakeel Fasha river, joins the Ghatt-al-Arab, it surely was only fair that Persia should have the possession of the river. But as Hakeel Fasha was not present on this occasion and we had already been talking for over 3 hours and the Khalifa was getting tired, we were unable to discuss the question of the Commission at this sitting and therefore adjourned, leaving the translation with the Khalifa for further study and discussion with Hakeel Fasha, and with the intention of finishing with it at the Khalifa's return visit to me. Meanwhile, and indeed all along, the latter expressed his firm intention, after talking things out, to comply with our final advice in the matter.

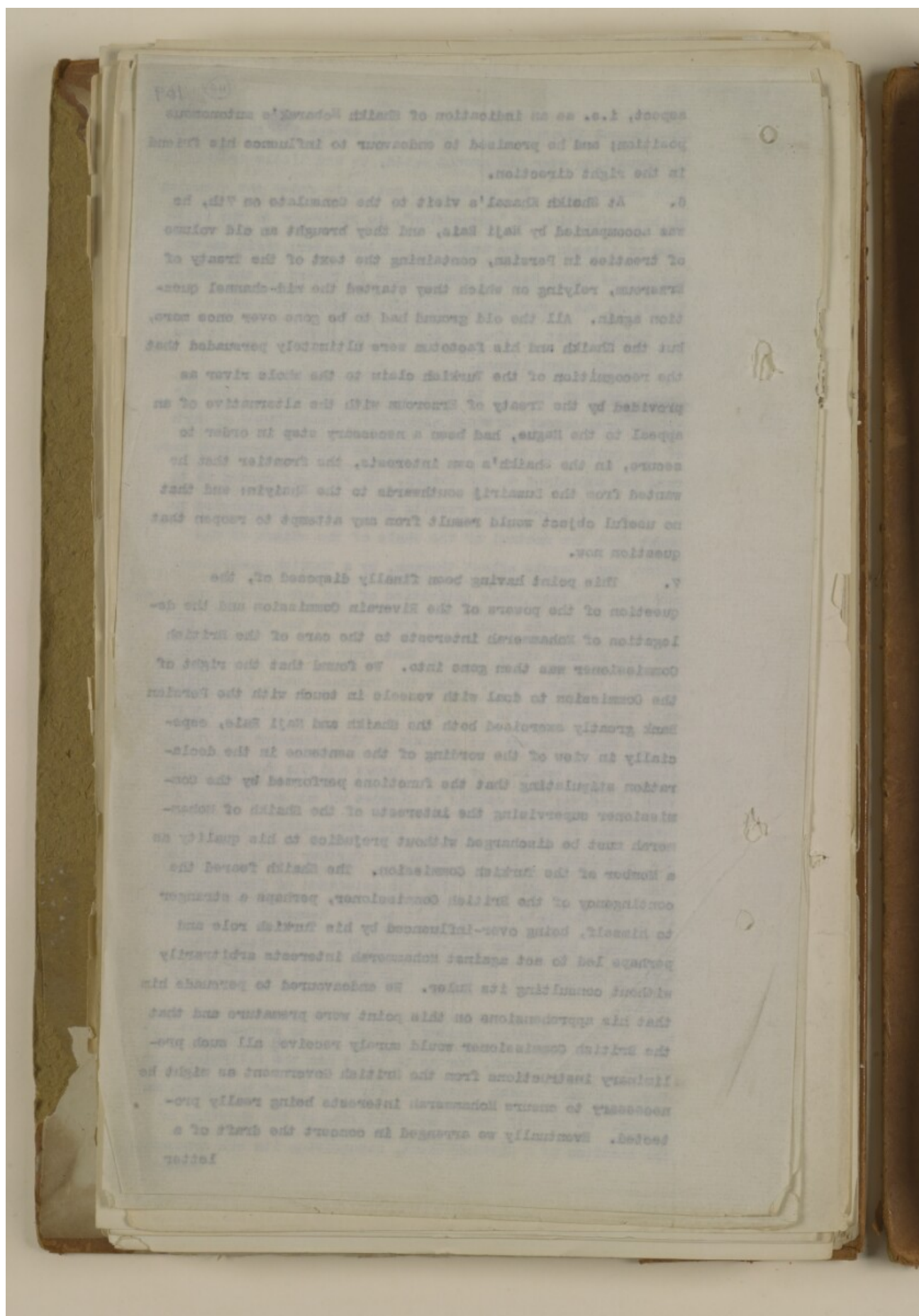
5. Before parting company I asked him to arrange with his guest, Hakeel Fasha, for me to visit him the following forenoon, and told Hakeel Fasha that I had to say to the forenoon. He himself took a sensible view of the question of the location of a British Agent, recognizing the one convenient aspect



110 109
aspect, i.e. as an indication of Shaikh Mobarak's autonomous position; and he promised to endeavour to influence his friend in the right direction.

6. At Shaikh Khazal's visit to the Consulate on 7th, he was accompanied by Haji Rais, and they brought an old volume of treaties in Persian, containing the text of the Treaty of Erzeroum, relying on which they started the mid-channel question again. All the old ground had to be gone over once more, but the Shaikh and his factotum were ultimately persuaded that the recognition of the Turkish claim to the whole river as provided by the Treaty of Erzeroum with the alternative of an appeal to the Hague, had been a necessary step in order to secure, in the Shaikh's own interests, the frontier that he wanted from the Duwairij southwards to the Khaiyin: and that no useful object would result from any attempt to reopen that question now.

7. This point having been finally disposed of, the question of the powers of the Riverain Commission and the delegation of Mohammerah interests to the care of the British Commissioner was then gone into. We found that the right of the Commission to deal with vessels in touch with the Persian Bank greatly exercised both the Shaikh and Haji Rais, especially in view of the wording of the sentence in the declaration stipulating that the functions performed by the Commissioner supervising the interests of the Shaikh of Mohammerah must be discharged without prejudice to his quality as a Member of the Turkish Commission. The Shaikh feared the contingency of the British Commissioner, perhaps a stranger to himself, being over-influenced by his Turkish role and perhaps led to act against Mohammerah interests arbitrarily without consulting its Ruler. We endeavoured to persuade him that his apprehensions on this point were premature and that the British Commissioner would surely receive all such preliminary instructions from the British Government as might be necessary to ensure Mohammerah interests being really protected. Eventually we arranged in concert the draft of a
letter





letter of acceptance for the Shaikh to send me, and this he
Enclosure 1. I did in due course. I attach a translation
thereof and trust that the Shaikh's accompanying stipulation
will not be considered inconvenient or unreasonable.

After settling the terms of this draft we adjourned to
other matters of business.

I need not dilate upon the extreme importance of letting
the Shaikh feel that the British Commissioner will really be
in sympathy with him and see that his interests are fully pro-
tected. To this end I would urge Government to be pleased
to consider the expediency of putting forward for selection
as British Commissioner the names of officers conversant with
the politics and if possible the languages of the Shatt-al-
Arab region, as being likely to have a better chance of est-
ablishing confidence and sympathetic relations with the
Shaikh.

8. I now beg to turn ^{to} my dealings with the Sheikh of Kuwait.

Captain Shakespear and I interviewed him at Failiyeh on
6th July, Shaikh Khazal being also present. I took up the
thread with Sheikh Mobarak from the point where the Political
Agent had left it as reported in my telegram No. 246, dated
27th May.

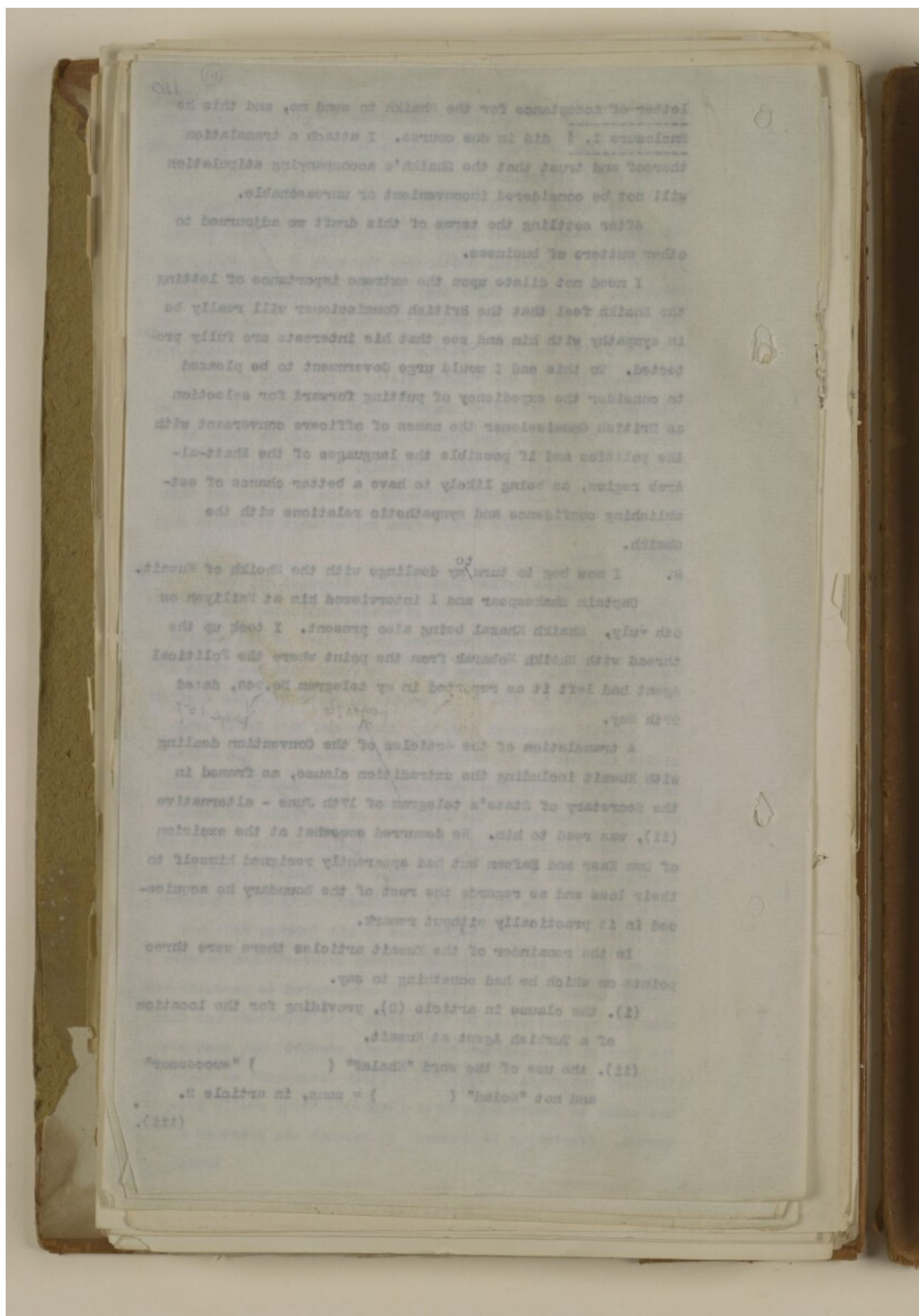
A translation of the Articles of the Convention dealing
with Kuwait including the extradition clause, as framed in
the Secretary of State's telegram of 17th June - alternative
(ii), was read to him. He demurred somewhat at the excision
of Umm Kasr and Bafwan but had apparently resigned himself to
their loss and as regards the rest of the boundary he acquies-
ced in it practically without remark.

In the remainder of the Kuwait articles there were three
points on which he had something to say.

(i). the clause in article (2), providing for the location
of a Turkish Agent at Kuwait.

(ii). the use of the word "Khalaf" () "successor"
and not "aolad" () = sons, in article 2.

(iii).



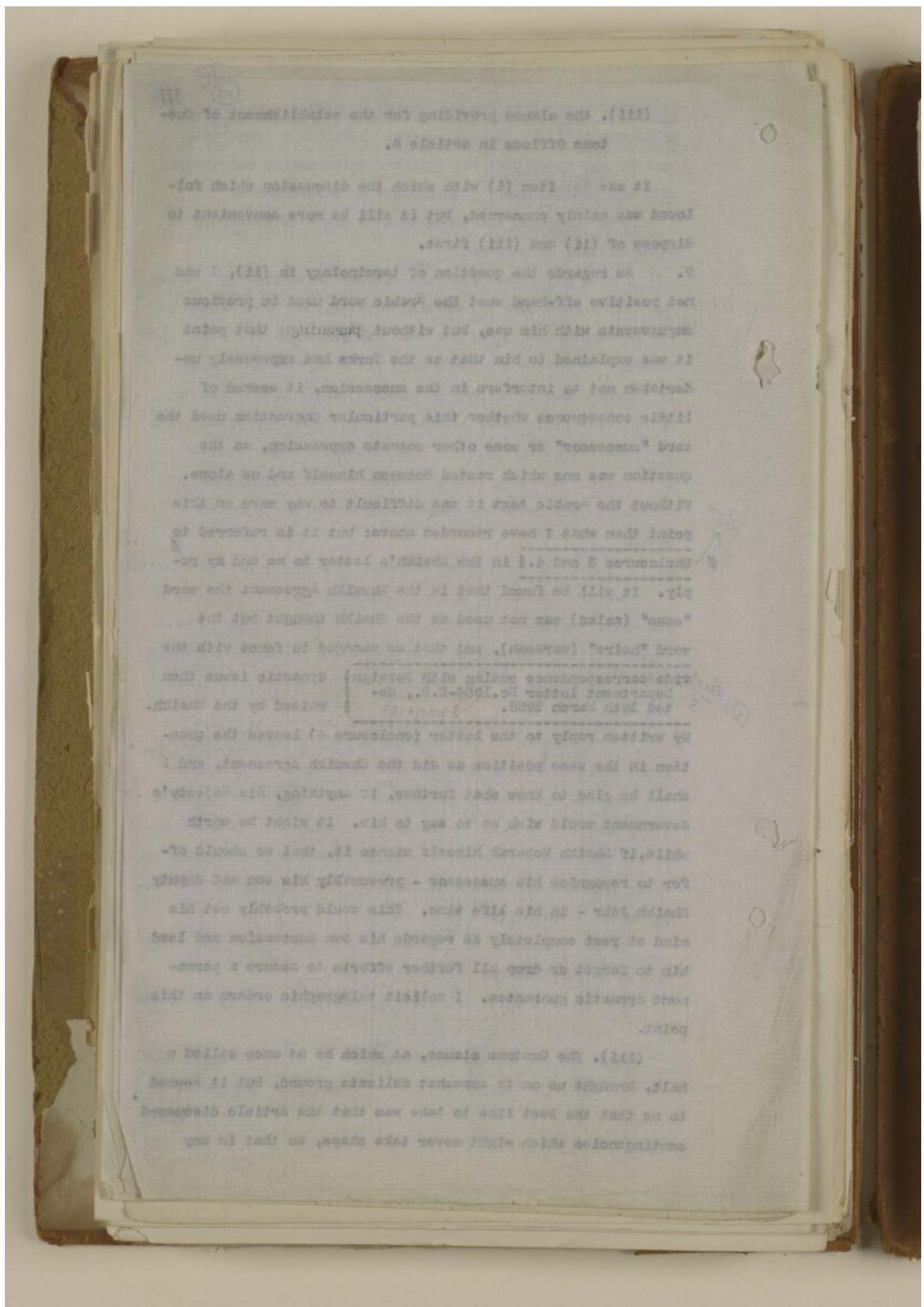


(iii). the clause providing for the establishment of Customs Offices in article 8. (112) 111

It was the item (i) with which the discussion which followed was mainly concerned, but it will be more convenient to dispose of (ii) and (iii) first.

9. As regards the question of terminology in (ii), I was not positive off-hand what the Arabic word used in previous engagements with him was, but without pursuing that point it was explained to him that as the Turks had expressly undertaken not to interfere in the succession, it seemed of little consequence whether this particular Convention used the word "successor" or some other cognate expression, as the question was one which rested between himself and us alone. Without the Arabic text it was difficult to say more on this point than what I have recorded above; but it is referred to Enclosures 3 and 4. in the Shaikh's letter to me and my reply. It will be found that in the Shwaikh Agreement the word "sons" (aslad) was not used as the Shaikh thought but the word "heirs" (warasah), and that we managed to fence with the vide correspondence ending with Foreign Department letter No. 1054-E.S., dated 18th March 1908. 3 Page 198 dynastic issue then raised by the Shaikh. My written reply to the latter (enclosure 4) leaves the question in the same position as did the Shwaikh Agreement, and I shall be glad to know what further, if anything, His Majesty's Government would wish me to say to him. It might be worth while, if Shaikh Mobarak himself wishes it, that we should offer to recognise his successor - presumably his son and deputy Shaikh Jabr - in his life time. This would probably set his mind at rest completely as regards his own succession and lead him to forget or drop all further efforts to secure a permanent dynastic guarantee. I solicit telegraphic orders on this point.

(iii). The Customs clause, at which he at once called a halt, brought us on to somewhat delicate ground, but it seemed to me that the best line to take was that the Article discussed contingencies which might never take shape, so that in any





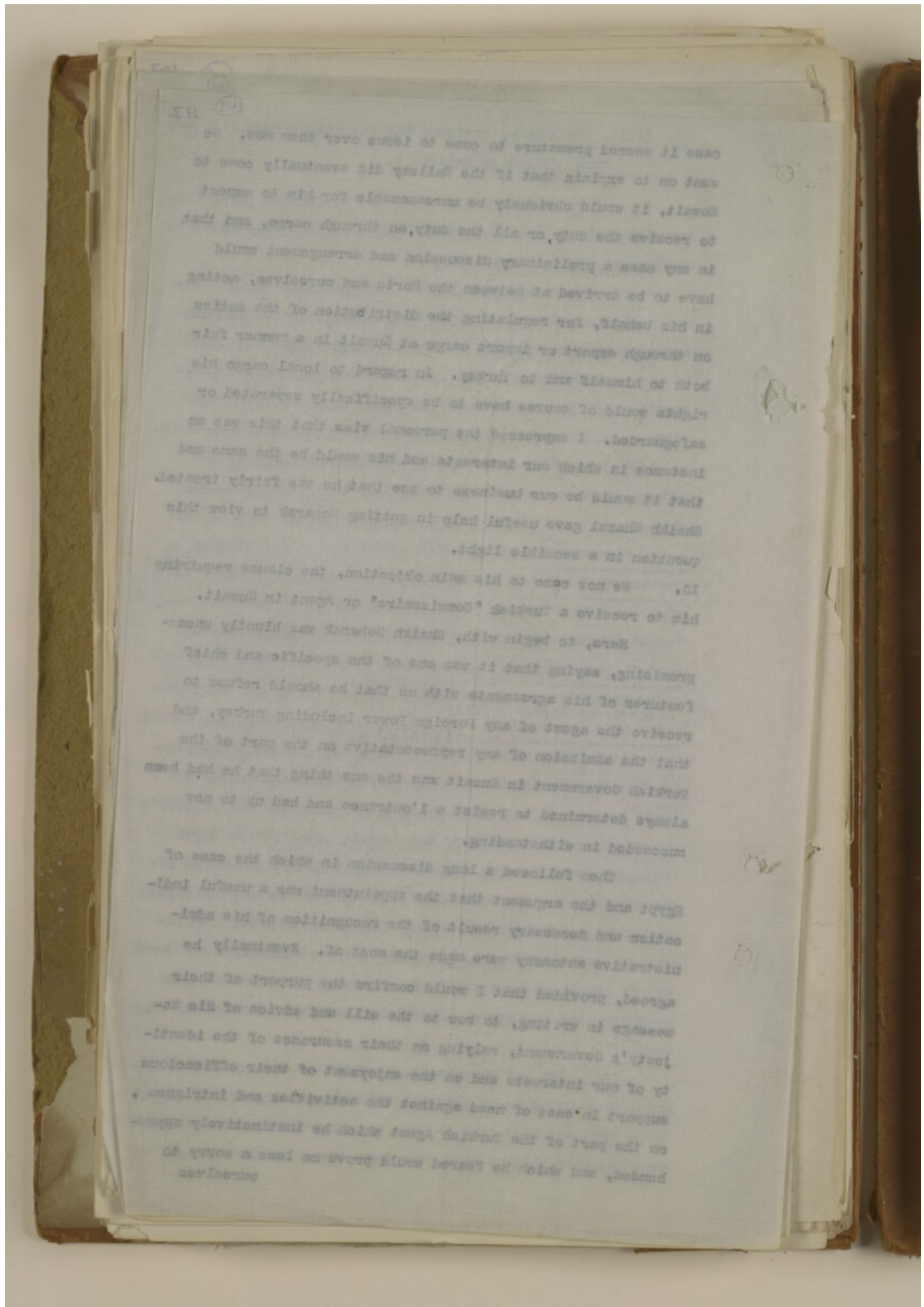
(113) 112

case it seemed premature to come to issue over them now. We went on to explain that if the Railway did eventually come to Kuwait, it would obviously be unreasonable for him to expect to receive the duty, or all the duty, on through cargo, and that in any case a preliminary discussion and arrangement would have to be arrived at between the Porte and ourselves, acting in his behalf, for regulating the distribution of the duties on through export or import cargo at Kuwait in a manner fair both to himself and to Turkey. In regard to local cargo his rights would of course have to be specifically separated or safeguarded. I expressed the personal view that this was an instance in which our interests and his would be the same and that it would be our business to see that he was fairly treated. Shaikh Khazal gave useful help in getting Mobarak to view this question in a sensible light.

10. We now come to his main objection, the clause requiring him to receive a Turkish "Commissaire" or Agent in Kuwait.

Here, to begin with, Shaikh Mobarak was bluntly uncompromising, saying that it was one of the specific and chief features of his agreements with us that he should refuse to receive the agent of any Foreign Power including Turkey, and that the admission of any representative on the part of the Turkish Government in Kuwait was the one thing that he had been always determined to resist à l'outrance and had up to now succeeded in withstanding.

Then followed a long discussion in which the case of Egypt and the argument that the appointment was a useful indication and necessary result of the recognition of his administrative autonomy were made the most of. Eventually he agreed, provided that I would confirm the purport of their message in writing, to bow to the will and advice of His Majesty's Government, relying on their assurance of the identity of our interests and on the enjoyment of their efficacious support in case of need against the activities and intrigues on the part of the Turkish Agent which he instinctively apprehended, and which he feared would prove no less a worry to ourselves





ourselves than to him. It was not specially authorised to give him the purport of the Secretary of State's telegram in writing; but I do not think I should have got his assurance in writing without it, and my refusal to give it would have aroused undesirable suspicion of our good faith in his mind. 113

11. We separated a few minutes later and he subsequently sent me the letter of acceptance of which I attach a translation. The first portion is based on lines suggested to him by myself; the remainder, from the words "I would only represent" onwards, is not meant by him to detract from his acceptance; but merely reminds us of the 3 questions of Succession, Customs, and Admission of European foreigners to Kuwait in connection with which he either foresees difficulty and claims our support, or feels that the situation needs clearing by the light of the Convention. 114

With the first two matters I have dealt sufficiently in the foregoing paragraphs. As regards the third, his future attitude towards foreigners, Shaikh Mobarak incidentally referred to the question of the overtures made to him in the past by Messrs Wonckhaus & Co., and enquired whether his obligation to admit a Turkish Agent involved any obligation or permission to admit other foreigners. I replied that our advice to him to keep Messrs Wonckhaus and others at a safe distance had reference partly to the indefinite nature of his status vis a vis the Turks, a fact which was likely to afford such persons opportunities for intrigue. I continued that my personal view was that the regulation and establishment of his status by the present Convention somewhat altered the position, but I explained that the terms of the Convention only provided for and referred to the admission of a Turkish Agent, and did not affect his existing understanding with us as regards others; so that I considered that it was still obligatory for him to consult us before admitting other foreigners. I concluded, however, that I would, if he desired, make a fresh reference to Government with regard to the case of Messrs Wonckhaus and ascertain their views. Shaikh Mobarak agreed that that was the best course to



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give him the purport of the Secretary of State's telegram
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his acceptance; but merely reminds us of the 3 questions of
Immigration, Customs, and Admission of European foreigners to
Kuwait in connection with which he either foresees difficulty
and claims our support, or feels that the situation needs clear-
ing up by the light of the Convention.
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the foregoing paragraphs. As regards the third, his future
attitude towards foreigners, Khalid Nohman incidentally re-
turned to the question of the overtures made to him in the past
by Messrs Nohman & Co., and enquired whether his obligation
to Khalid Nohman involved any obligation or persuasion
to admit other foreigners. I replied that our advice to him
to keep Messrs Nohman and others at a safe distance had re-
ferred partly to the indefinite nature of his status vis a vis
the Turks, a fact which was likely to afford much persons oppor-
tunities for intrigue. I continued that my personal view was
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tent Convention somewhat altered the position, but I explained
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existing understanding with us as regards others; so that I
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with regard to the case of Messrs Nohman and ascertain their
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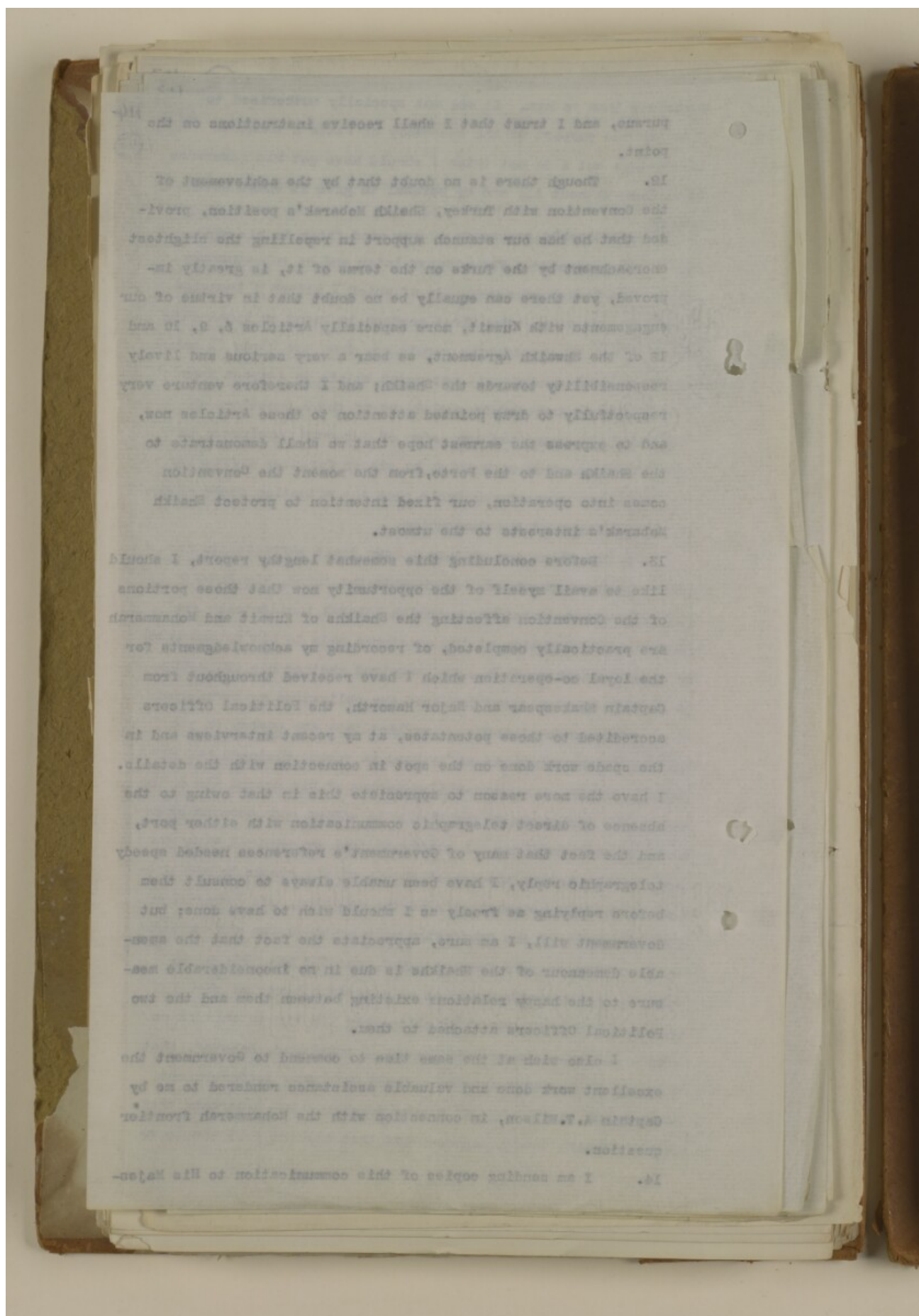
pursue, and I trust that I shall receive instructions on the point. 114
(115)

12. Though there is no doubt that by the achievement of the Convention with Turkey, Shaikh Mobarak's position, provided that he has our staunch support in repelling the slightest encroachment by the Turks on the terms of it, is greatly improved, yet there can equally be no doubt that in virtue of our engagements with Kuwait, more especially Articles 5, 9, 10 and 12 of the Shwaikh Agreement, we bear a very serious and lively responsibility towards the Shaikh; and I therefore venture very respectfully to draw pointed attention to those Articles now, and to express the earnest hope that we shall demonstrate to the Shaikh and to the Porte, from the moment the Convention comes into operation, our fixed intention to protect Shaikh Mobarak's interests to the utmost.

13. Before concluding this somewhat lengthy report, I should like to avail myself of the opportunity now that those portions of the Convention affecting the Shaikhs of Kuwait and Mohammerah are practically completed, of recording my acknowledgments for the loyal co-operation which I have received throughout from Captain Shakespear and Major Haworth, the Political Officers accredited to those potentates, at my recent interviews and in the spade work done on the spot in connection with the details. I have the more reason to appreciate this in that owing to the absence of direct telegraphic communication with either port, and the fact that many of Government's references needed speedy telegraphic reply, I have been unable always to consult them before replying as freely as I should wish to have done; but Government will, I am sure, appreciate the fact that the amenable demeanour of the Shaikhs is due in no inconsiderable measure to the happy relations existing between them and the two Political Officers attached to them.

I also wish at the same time to commend to Government the excellent work done and valuable assistance rendered to me by Captain A.T. Wilson, in connection with the Mohammerah frontier question.

14. I am sending copies of this communication to His Majes-





116 115
ty's Minister and to the Political Secretary, India Office,
for information.

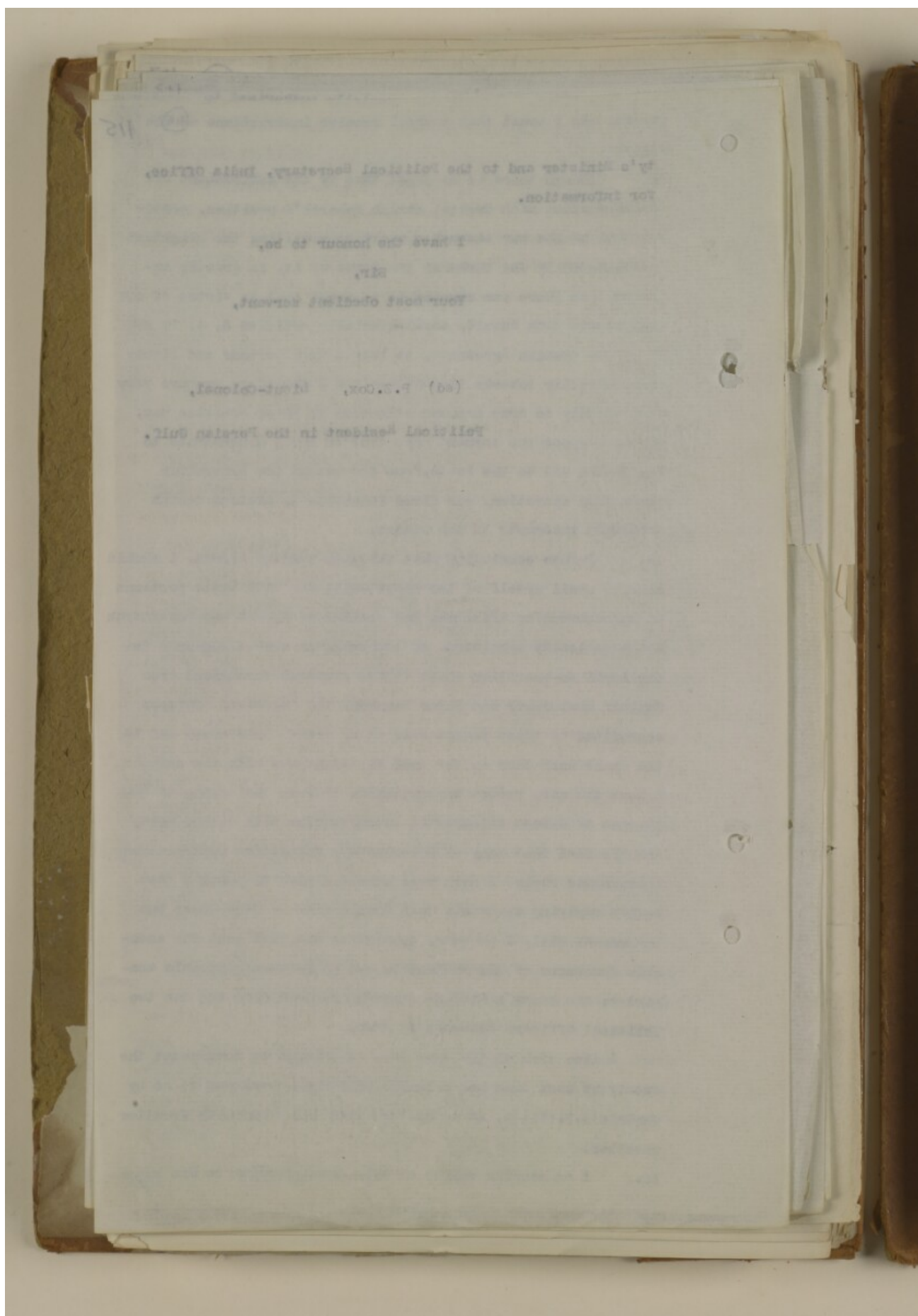
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(sd) P.Z.Cox, Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





ENCLOSURE 1. 116

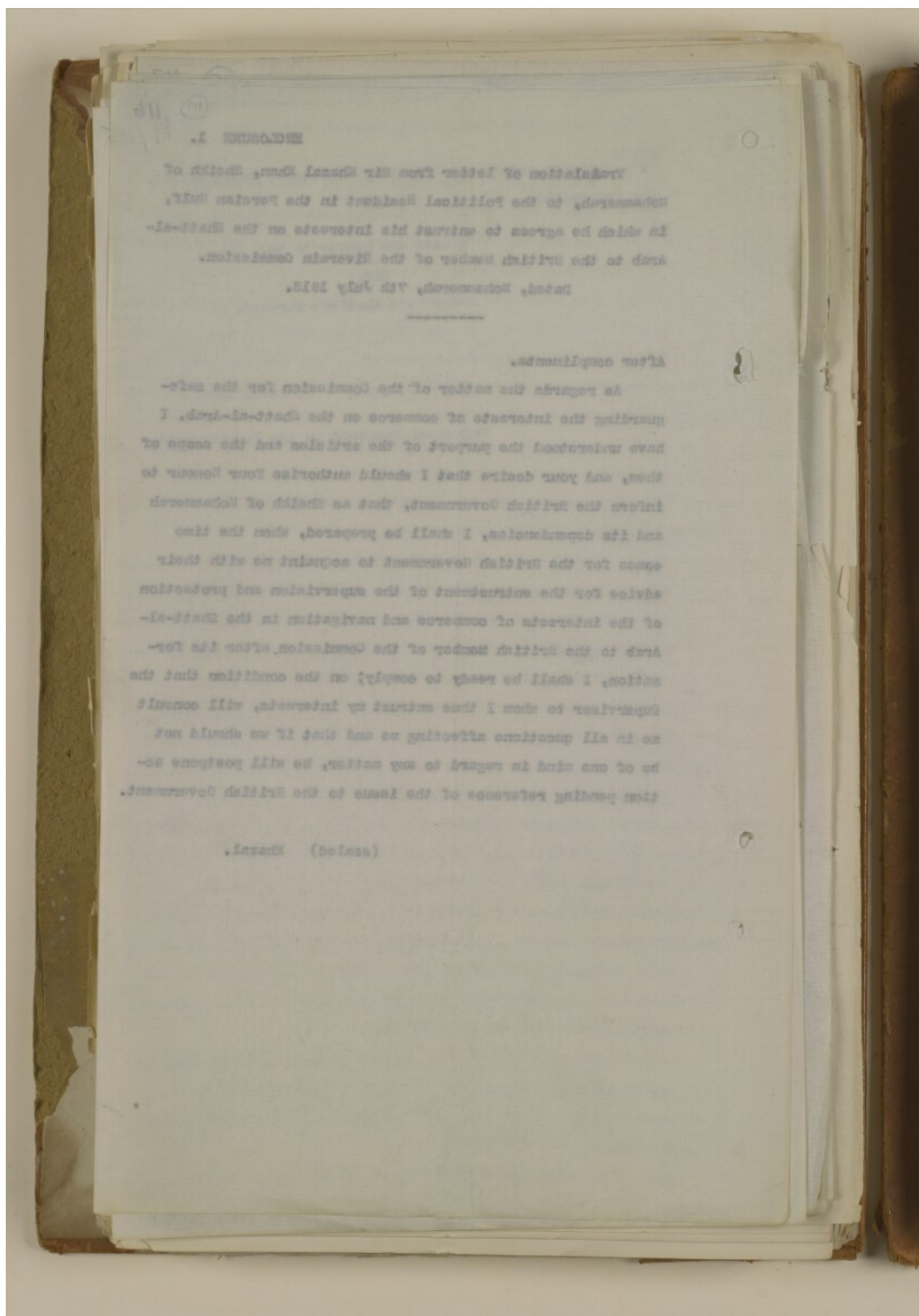
Translation of letter from Sir Khazal Khan, Sheikh of
Mohammerah, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
in which he agrees to entrust his interests on the Shatt-al-
Arab to the British Member of the Riverain Commission.

Dated, Mohammerah, 7th July 1913.

After compliments.

As regards the matter of the Commission for the safe-
guarding the interests of commerce on the Shatt-al-Arab, I
have understood the purport of the articles and the scope of
them, and your desire that I should authorise Your Honour to
inform the British Government, that as Sheikh of Mohammerah
and its dependencies, I shall be prepared, when the time
comes for the British Government to acquaint me with their
advice for the entrustment of the supervision and protection
of the interests of commerce and navigation in the Shatt-al-
Arab to the British Member of the Commission, after its for-
mation, I shall be ready to comply; on the condition that the
Supervisor to whom I thus entrust my interests, will consult
me in all questions affecting me and that if we should not
be of one mind in regard to any matter, he will postpone ac-
tion pending reference of the issue to the British Government.

(sealed) Khazal.





ENCLOSURE 2.

118 117

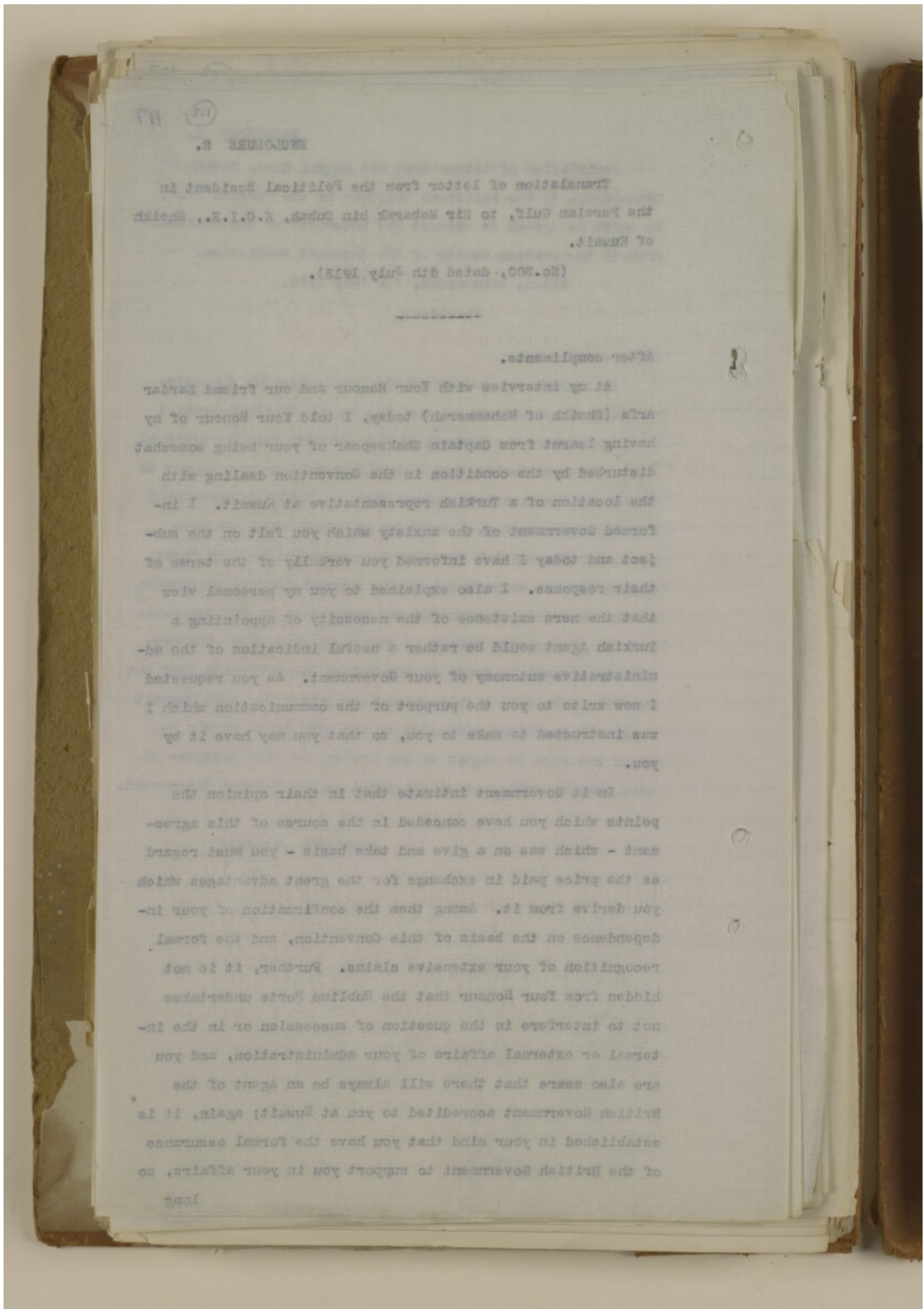
Translation of letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Sir Mobarak bin Subah, K.C.I.E., Sheikh of Kuwait.

(No.300, dated 6th July 1913).

After compliments.

At my interview with Your Honour and our friend Sardar Arfa (Sheikh of Mohammerah) today, I told Your Honour of my having learnt from Captain Shakespear of your being somewhat disturbed by the condition in the Convention dealing with the location of a Turkish representative at Kuwait. I informed Government of the anxiety which you felt on the subject and today I have informed you verbally of the terms of their response. I also explained to you my personal view that the mere existence of the necessity of appointing a Turkish Agent would be rather a useful indication of the administrative autonomy of your Government. As you requested I now write to you the purport of the communication which I was instructed to make to you, so that you may have it by you.

In it Government intimate that in their opinion the points which you have conceded in the course of this agreement - which was on a give and take basis - you must regard as the price paid in exchange for the great advantages which you derive from it. Among them the confirmation of your independence on the basis of this Convention, and the formal recognition of your extensive claims. Further, it is not hidden from Your Honour that the Sublime Porte undertakes not to interfere in the question of succession or in the internal or external affairs of your administration, and you are also aware that there will always be an Agent of the British Government accredited to you at Kuwait; again, it is established in your mind that you have the formal assurance of the British Government to support you in your affairs, so
long





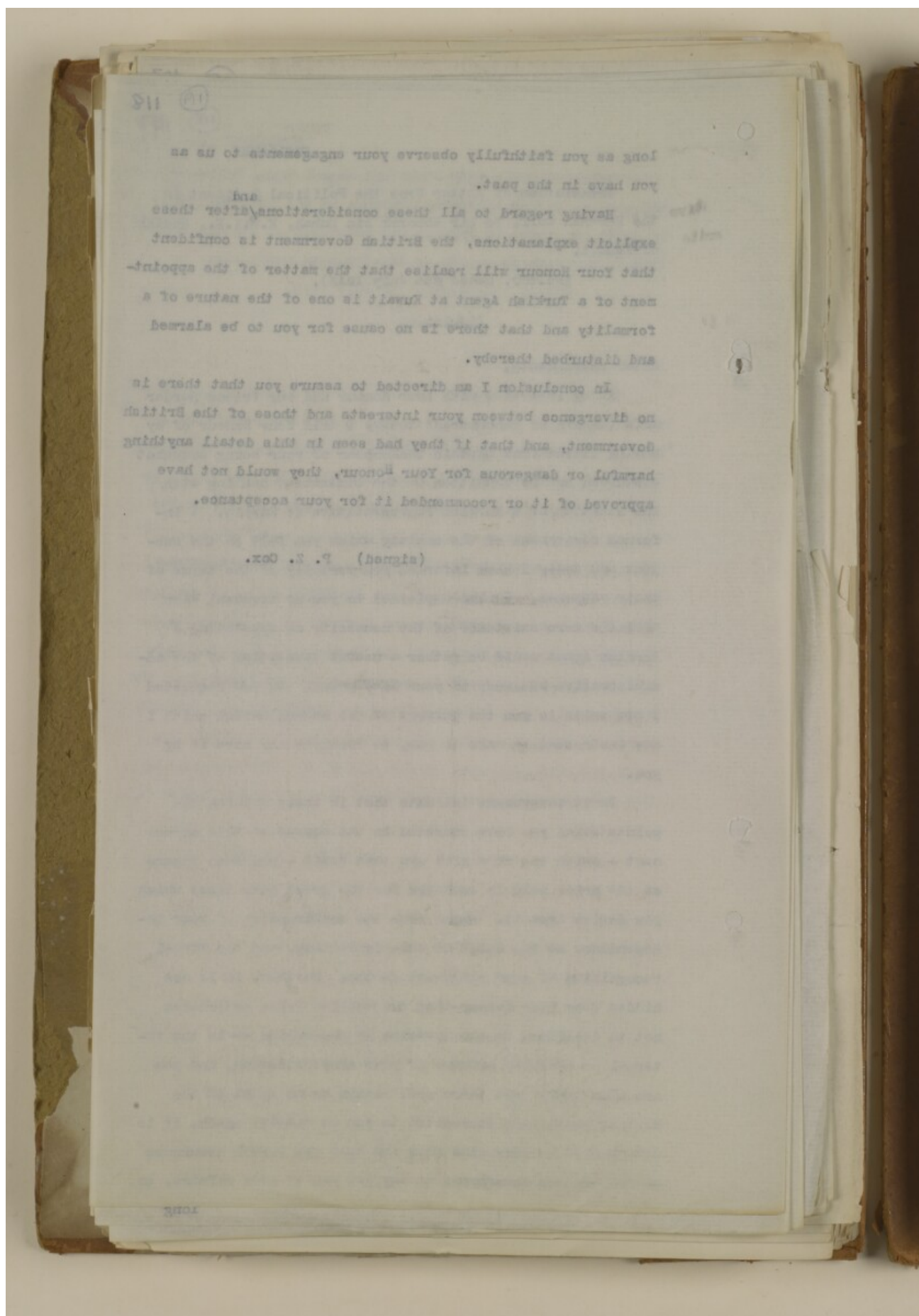
(1A) 118

long as you faithfully observe your engagements to us as you have in the past.

and
Having regard to all these considerations/after these explicit explanations, the British Government is confident that Your Honour will realise that the matter of the appointment of a Turkish Agent at Kuwait is one of the nature of a formality and that there is no cause for you to be alarmed and disturbed thereby.

In conclusion I am directed to assure you that there is no divergence between your interests and those of the British Government, and that if they had seen in this detail anything harmful or dangerous for Your Honour, they would not have approved of it or recommended it for your acceptance.

(signed) P. Z. Cox.





(120) 119
ENCLOSURE 3.

Translation of letter from Sir Mobarak bin Subah, K.C.M.E.
Sheikh of Kuwait, to the Political Resident in the Persian
Gulf, accepting Convention.

(Dated, Mohammerah, 7th July 1913).

I have received your esteemed letter of 6th July 1913
(1st Shaaban 1351) and understood its contents, in confirma-
tion of what you explained to me verbally at our interview
today (i.e. 6th July).

I trust you will inform the British Government that I
recognise and admit the force of your explanations that my
interests and those of the British Government are identical
and that there is no difference between them; and accordingly
it is incumbent on me to rely upon the advice of the Great
Government in this matter; but they will, I am sure, under-
stand that when any doubt enters my mind and I see in any
measure a probable source of difficulty and danger to my own
interests or those of Government, it is proper for me to com-
municate my apprehensions for their august views. But in view
of your explanations and letter under reply, I can but bow to
their view and authorise Your Honour to say that I shall rely
on the Great Government to support me so long as I am firm
in faithful fulfilment of my engagements with them, as in the
past; please God I shall preserve those obligations and in-
crease my intimate attachment to the Great Government and
shall act up to what is written in our Treaties and even more
than that.

I would only represent to you that among the stipulations
in our Treaties and in the agreement regarding the lease of
land at Bandar Shweikh, my "sons" are specified as my suc-
cessors, while now in the condition as arranged between the
2 Governments, the word "Khalaf" appears. Now "Khalaf" (suc-
cessors) includes sons and others. Again in our Treaties I
am described as not agreeing to the presence in Kuwait of



111 (120)
ENCLOSURE 2.
Translation of letter from Sir Hovhann Khushn, K.C.S.I.
British of Kuwait, to the Political Resident in the Persian
Gulf, accepting Convention.
(Dated, Mohammadiyah, 7th July 1913).
I have received your esteemed letter of 8th July 1913
(1st Khazari 1331) and understood its contents, in contin-
uation of what you explained to me verbally at our interview
today (i.e. 8th July).
I trust you will inform the British Government that I
recognise and admit the force of your explanations that my
interests and those of the British Government are identical
and that there is no difference between them; and, accord-
ing to it is incumbent on me to rely upon the advice of the Great
Government in this matter; but they will, I am sure, under-
stand that when any doubt enters my mind and I see in any
measure a probable source of difficulty and danger to my own
interests or those of Government, it is proper for me to com-
municate my apprehensions for their august views. But in view
of your explanations and letter under reply, I can but bow to
their view and authorities Your Honour to say that I shall rely
on the Great Government to support me as long as I am true
in faithful fulfilment of my engagements with them, as in the
past; please God I shall preserve those obligations and in-
crease my intimate attachment to the Great Government and
shall set up to what is written in our Treaties and even more
than that.
I would only remark to you that among the stipulations
in our Treaties and in the agreement regarding the lease of
land at Bahdar Khwakh, my "sons" are specified as my suc-
cessors, while now in the condition as arranged between the
2 Governments, the word "Khafar" appears. Now "Khafar" (suc-
cessors) includes sons and others. Again in our Treaties I
am described as not agreeing to the presence in Kuwait of



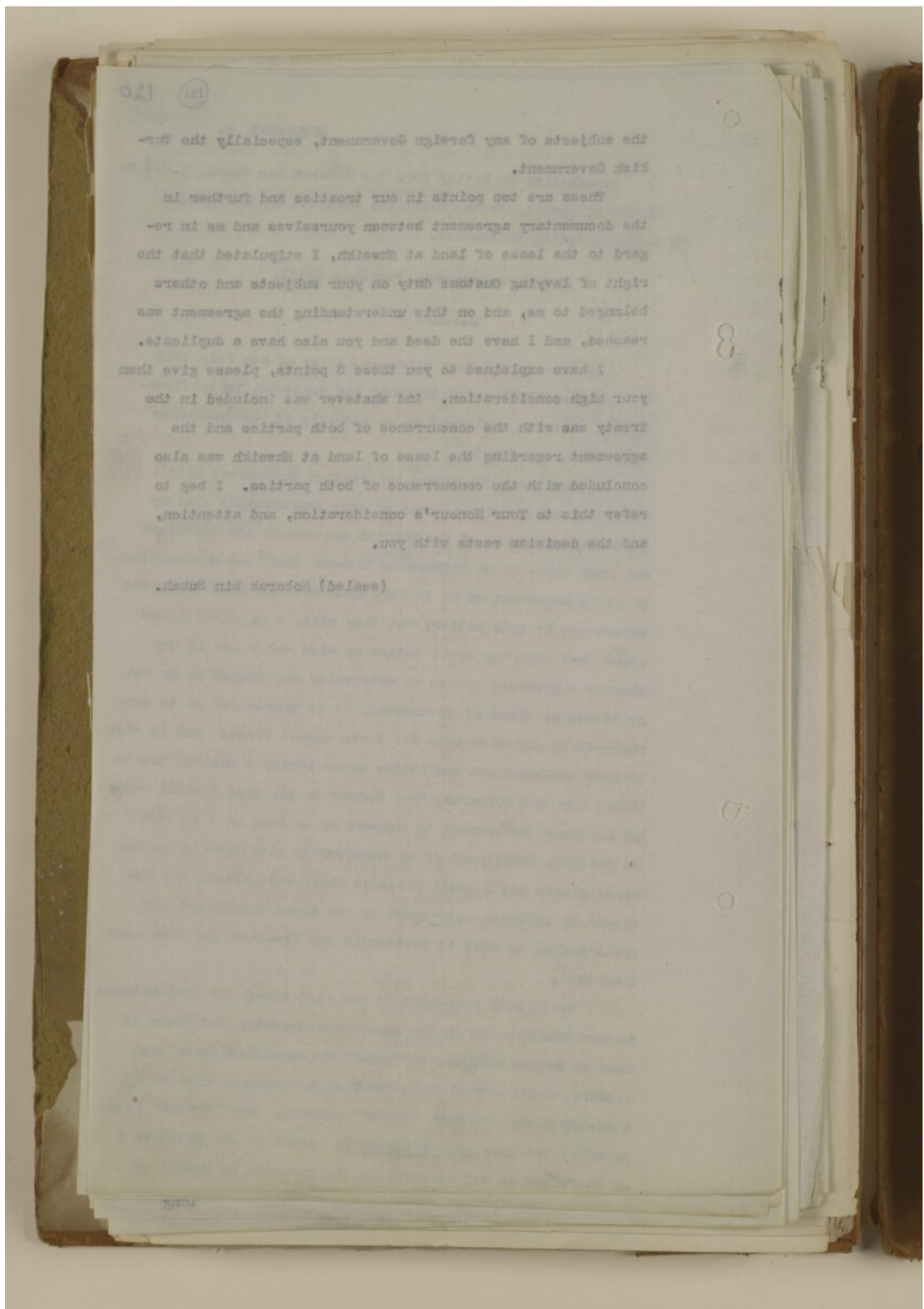
(121) 120

the subjects of any foreign Government, especially the Turkish Government.

These are two points in our treaties and further in the documentary agreement between yourselves and me in regard to the lease of land at Shweikh, I stipulated that the right of levying Customs duty on your subjects and others belonged to me, and on this understanding the agreement was reached, and I have the deed and you also have a duplicate.

I have explained to you these 3 points, please give them your high consideration. And whatever was included in the Treaty was with the concurrence of both parties and the agreement regarding the lease of land at Shweikh was also concluded with the concurrence of both parties. I beg to refer this to Your Honour's consideration, and attention, and the decision rests with you.

(sealed) Mobarak bin Subah.





(122)

121

ENCLOSURE 4.

Translation of letter from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Sir Mobarak bin Sabah, K.C.I.E., Sheikh of Kuwait.

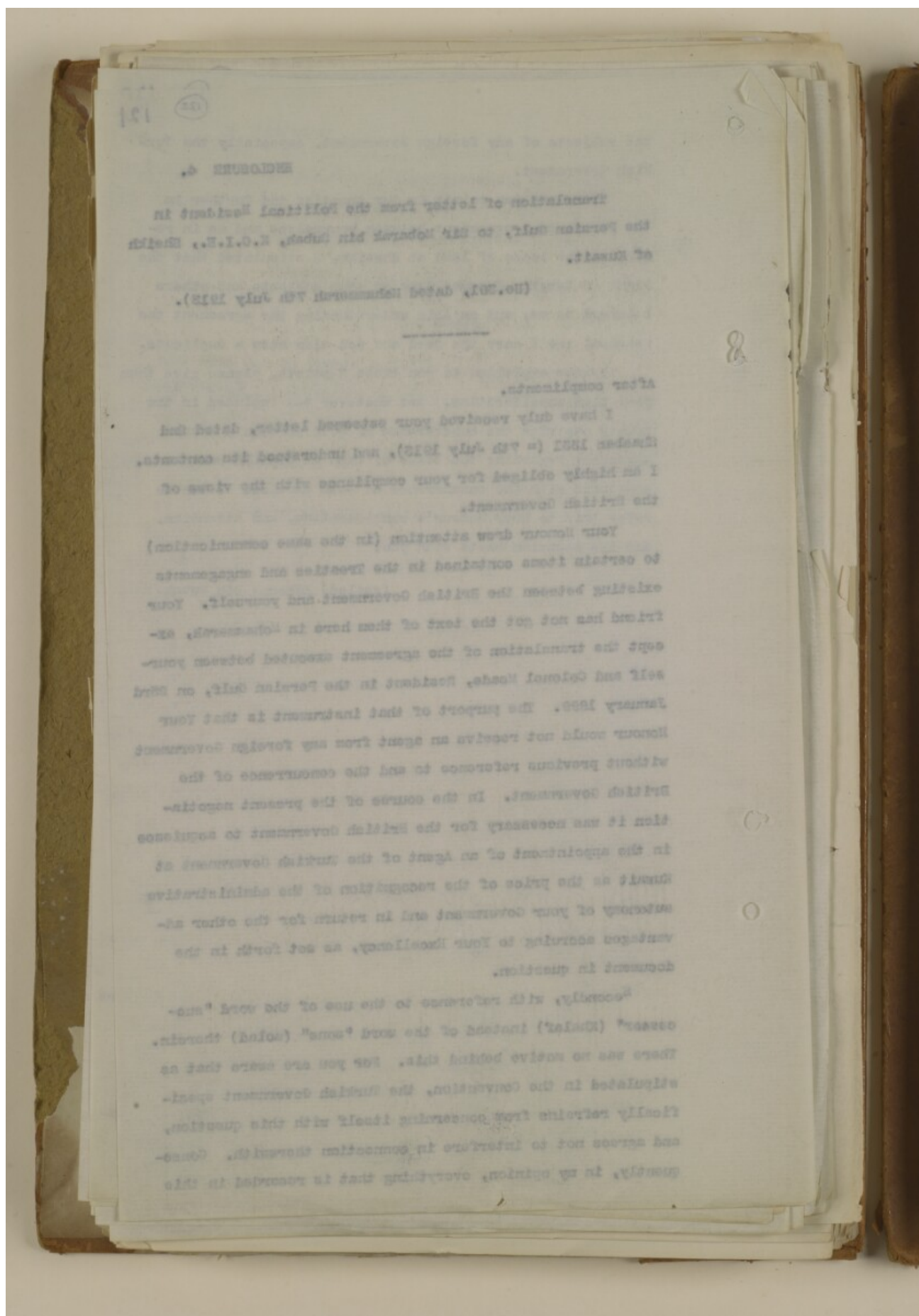
(No. 301, dated Mohammerah 7th July 1913).

After compliments.

I have duly received your esteemed letter, dated 2nd Shaaban 1331 (= 7th July 1913), and understood its contents. I am highly obliged for your compliance with the views of the British Government.

Your Honour drew attention (in the same communication) to certain items contained in the Treaties and engagements existing between the British Government and yourself. Your friend has not got the text of them here in Mohammerah, except the translation of the agreement executed between yourself and Colonel Meade, Resident in the Persian Gulf, on 23rd January 1899. The purport of that instrument is that Your Honour would not receive an agent from any foreign Government without previous reference to and the concurrence of the British Government. In the course of the present negotiation it was necessary for the British Government to acquiesce in the appointment of an Agent of the Turkish Government at Kuwait as the price of the recognition of the administrative autonomy of your Government and in return for the other advantages accruing to Your Excellency, as set forth in the document in question.

Secondly, with reference to the use of the word "successor" (Khalaf) instead of the word "sons" (sclad) therein. There was no motive behind this. For you are aware that as stipulated in the Convention, the Turkish Government specifically refrains from concerning itself with this question, and agrees not to interfere in connection therewith. Consequently, in my opinion, everything that is recorded in this





(123)

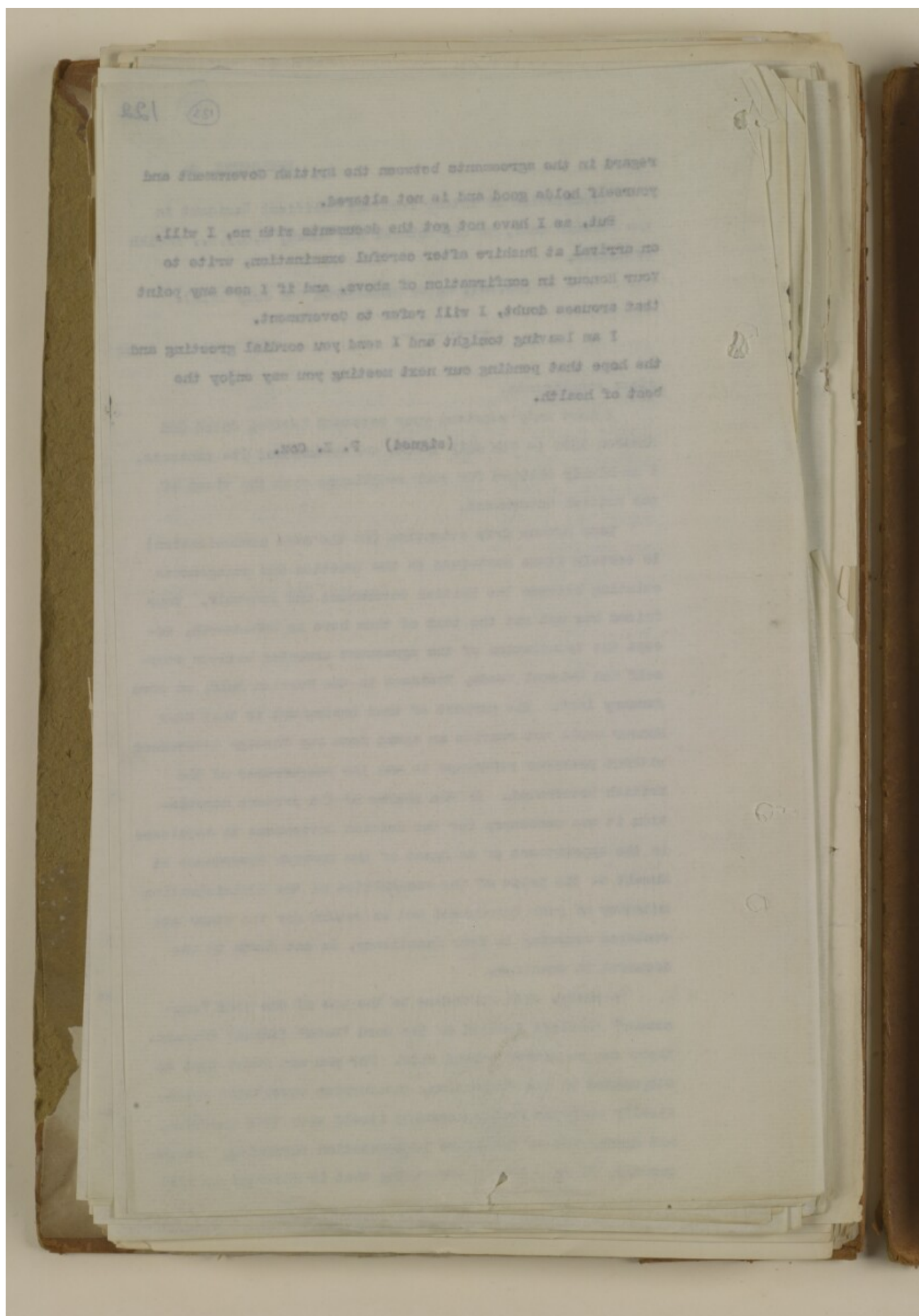
122

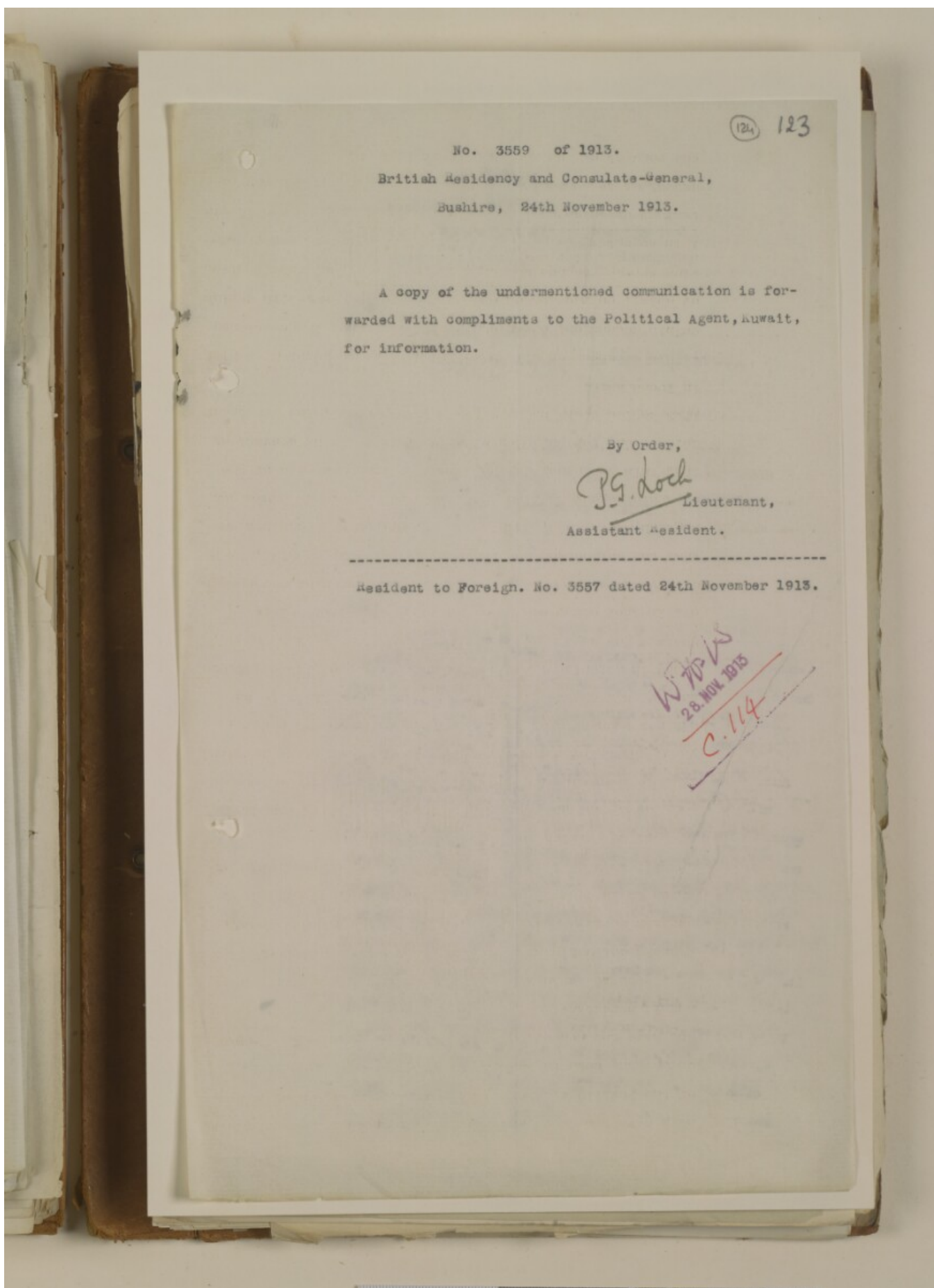
regard in the agreements between the British Government and yourself holds good and is not altered.

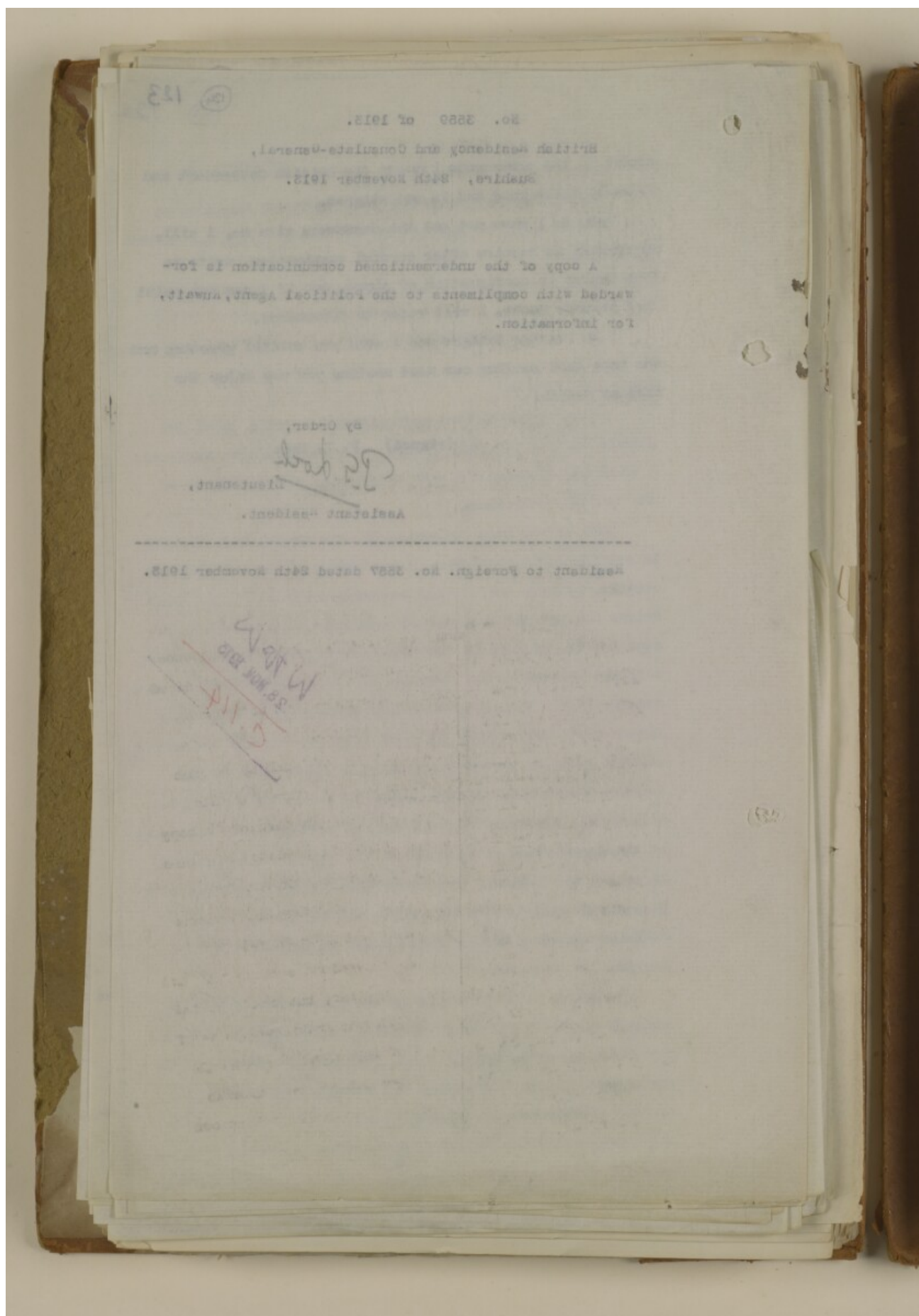
But, as I have not got the documents with me, I will, on arrival at Bushire after careful examination, write to Your Honour in confirmation of above, and if I see any point that arouses doubt, I will refer to Government.

I am leaving tonight and I send you cordial greeting and the hope that pending our next meeting you may enjoy the best of health.

(signed) P. E. Cox.









(125)

124

No. 3557 of 1913.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 24th November 1913.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir P.E.Cox, A.C.I.E., O.S.I.
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. J.B.Wood, O.I.E., I.C.S.,
Offg: Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

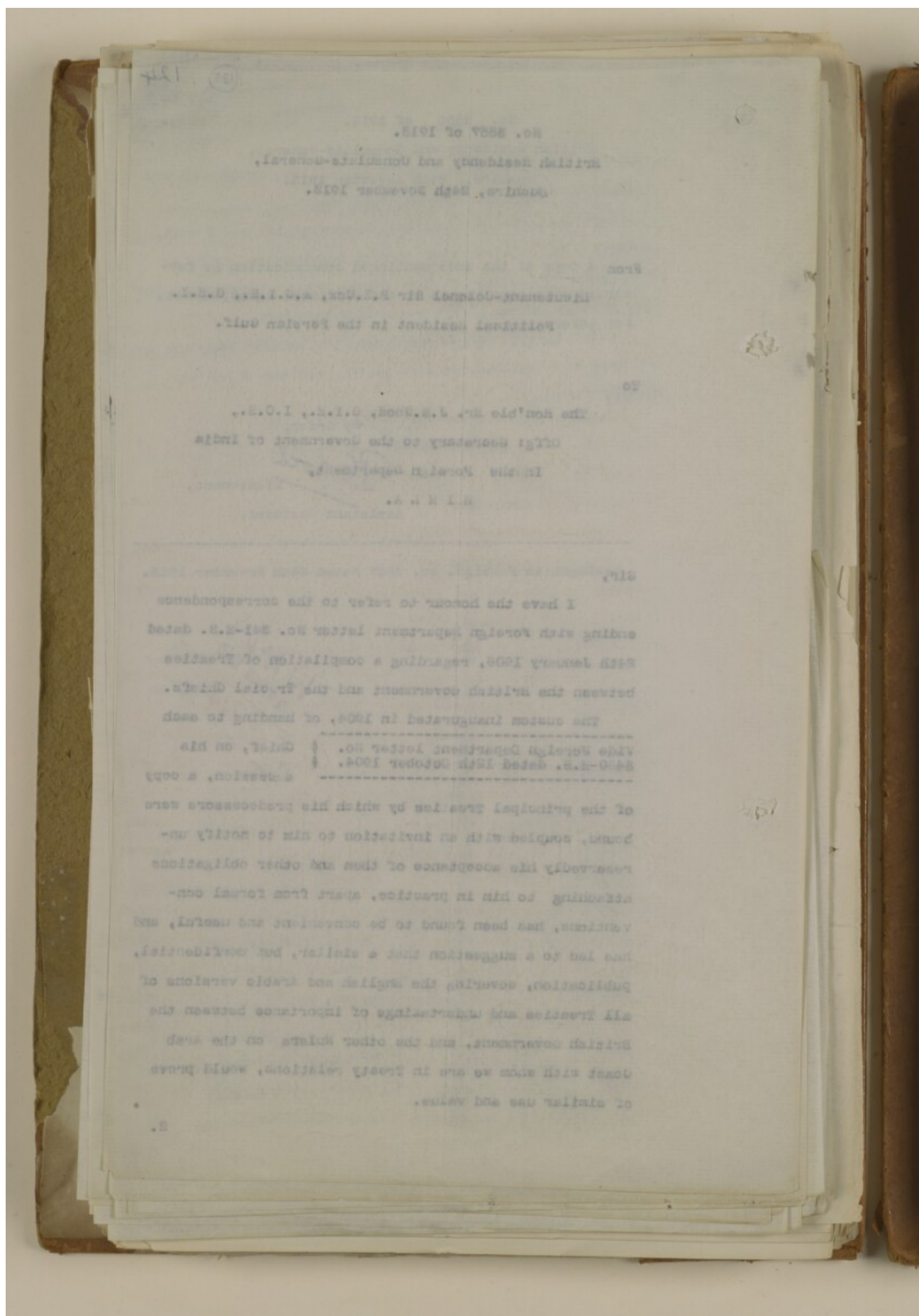
Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with Foreign Department letter No. 341-E.B. dated 24th January 1906, regarding a compilation of Treaties between the British Government and the Trucial Chiefs.

The custom inaugurated in 1904, of handing to each

Vide Foreign Department letter No. 3400-E.B. dated 12th October 1904. Chief, on his
----- accession, a copy
of the principal Treaties by which his predecessors were bound, coupled with an invitation to him to notify unreservedly his acceptance of them and other obligations attaching to him in practice, apart from formal conventions, has been found to be convenient and useful, and has led to a suggestion that a similar, but confidential, publication, covering the English and Arabic versions of all Treaties and undertakings of importance between the British Government, and the other Rulers on the Arab Coast with whom we are in Treaty relations, would prove of similar use and value.

2.





(126) 125

2. I have therefore under compilation, with the assistance of the Political Agents concerned, a collection of such documents, both in the original Arabic and in English, and have the honour to submit the collection regarding Kuwait herewith.

I hope to be in a position to submit the Masqat and Bahhain collections shortly, together with copies of certain further documents relating to the Trucial Coast, which it is convenient to have on record in the original Arabic, though it does not seem necessary or desirable at present to furnish the Chiefs with copies.

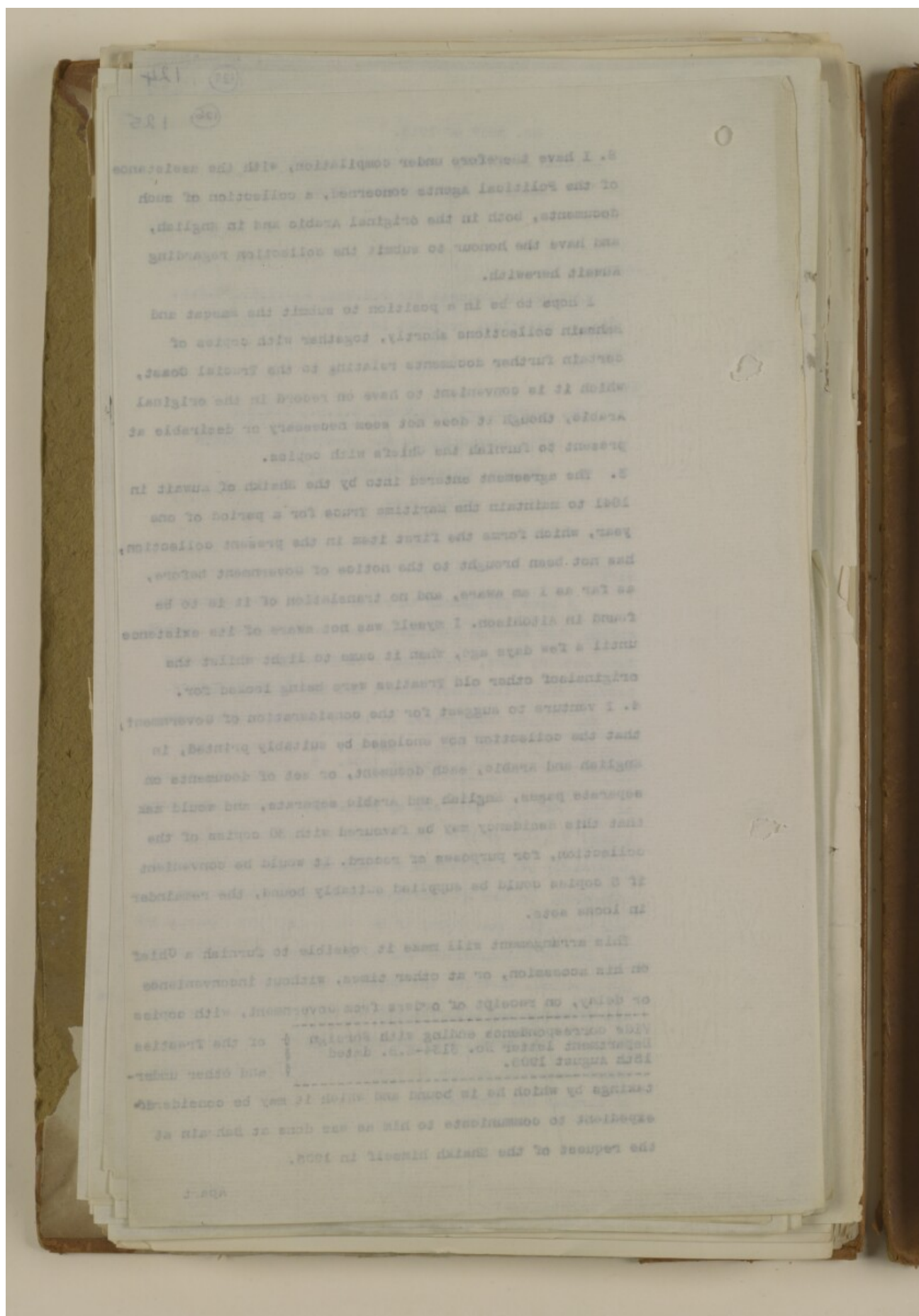
3. The agreement entered into by the Shaikh of Kuwait in 1841 to maintain the Maritime Truce for a period of one year, which forms the first item in the present collection, has not been brought to the notice of Government before, as far as I am aware, and no translation of it is to be found in Aitchison. I myself was not aware of its existence until a few days ago, when it came to light whilst the originals of other old Treaties were being looked for.

4. I venture to suggest for the consideration of Government, that the collection now enclosed be suitably printed, in English and Arabic, each document, or set of documents on separate pages, English and Arabic separate, and would ask that this Residency may be favoured with 30 copies of the collection, for purposes of record. It would be convenient if 5 copies could be supplied suitably bound, the remainder in loose sets.

This arrangement will make it possible to furnish a Chief on his accession, or at other times, without inconvenience or delay, on receipt of orders from Government, with copies

Vide correspondence ending with Foreign Department letter No. 3134-E.S. dated 15th August 1905. of the Treaties and other undertakings by which he is bound and which it may be considered expedient to communicate to him as was done at Bahhain at the request of the Shaikh himself in 1905.

Apart





(127) 126

Apart from this, it is convenient to have on record, in an accessible and authoritative form, the text of these Treaties, some of the originals of which are of old date and too fragile to be handled oftener than is absolutely necessary.

I have the honour to be

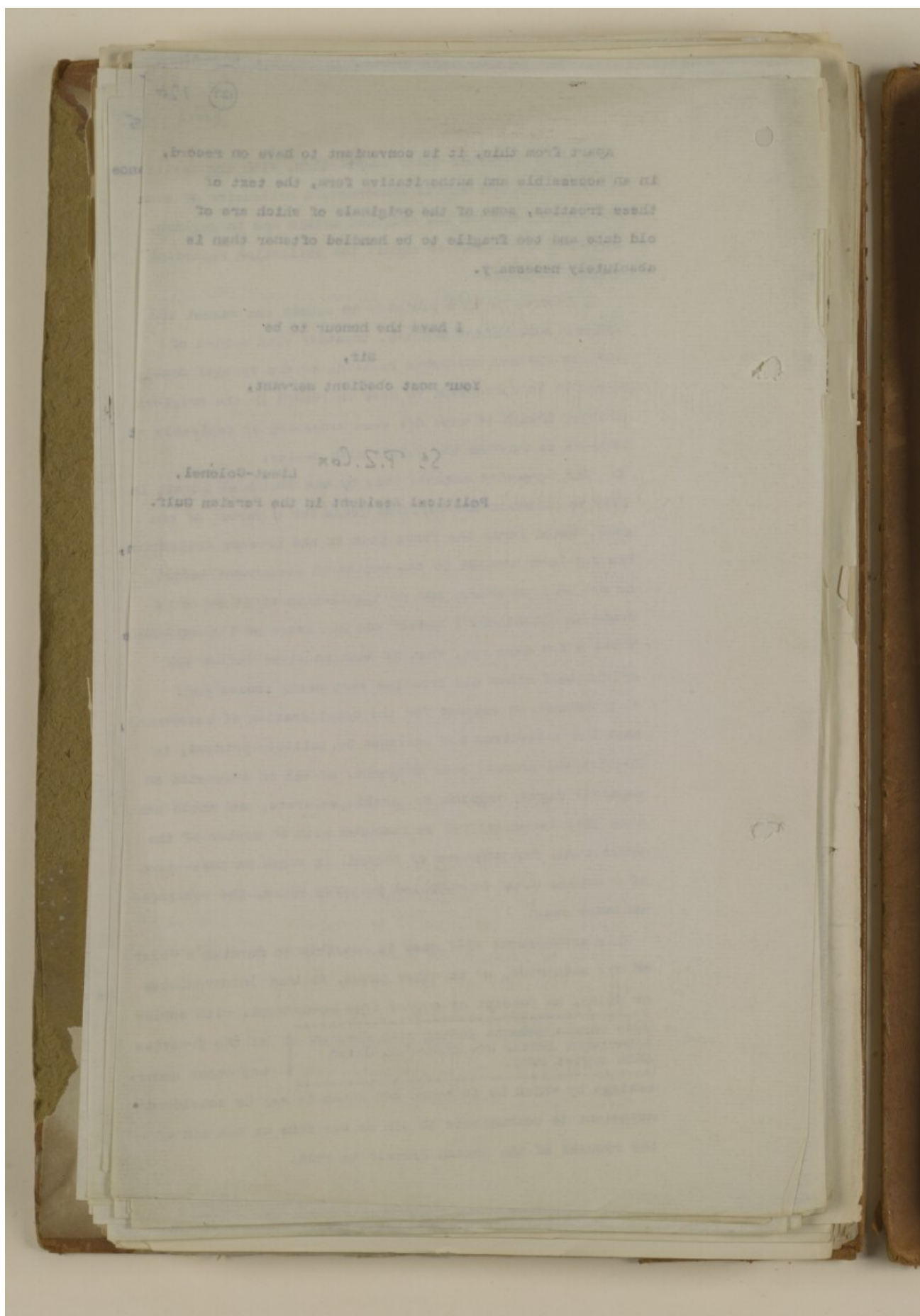
Sir,

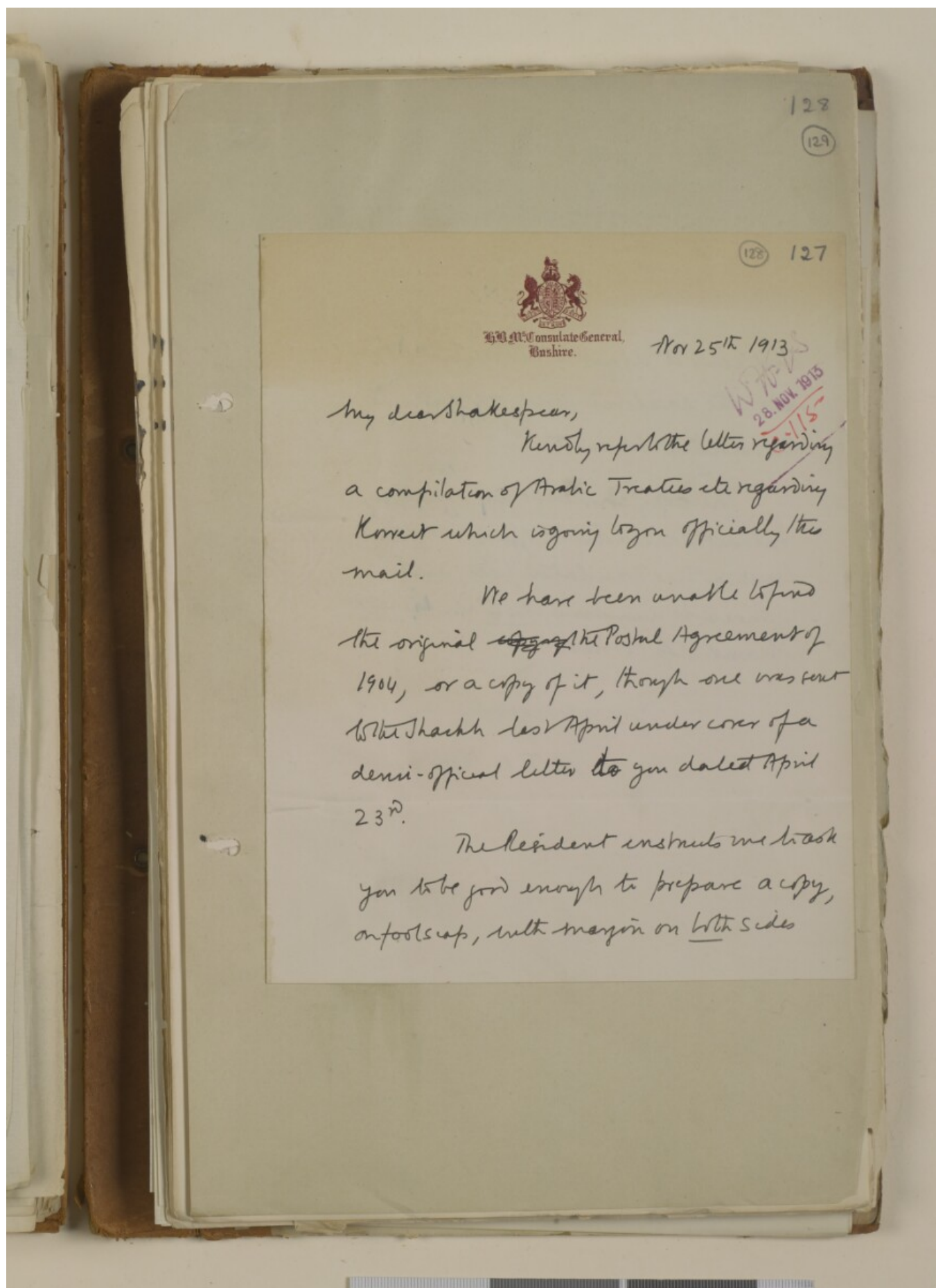
Your most obedient servant,

S^d P.Z. Cox

Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





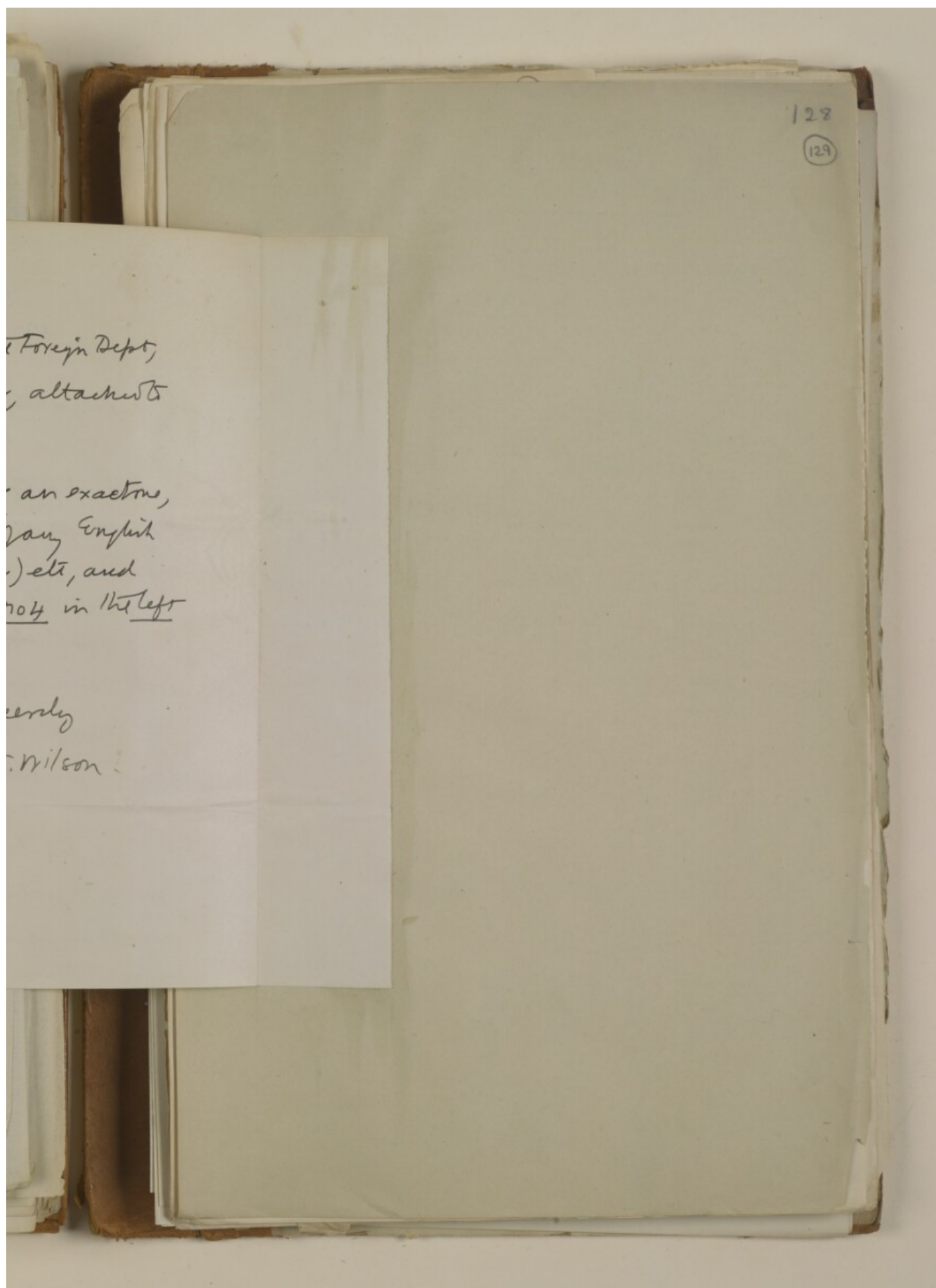


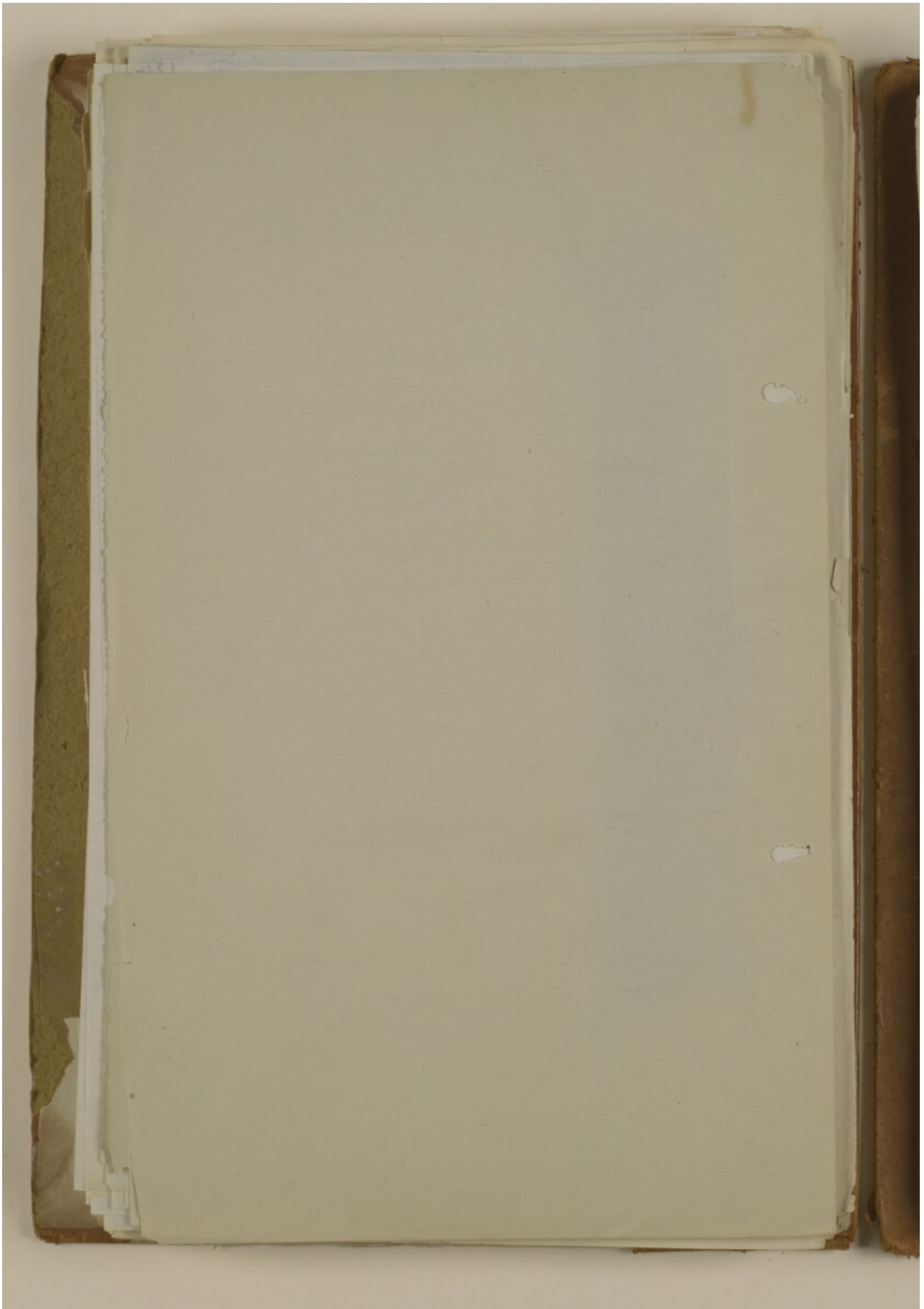
and send it direct to the Foreign Dept,
in the enclosed cover, attached to
the docket herewith.

The copy should be an exact one,
without the addition of any English
(such as Time Translation) etc, and
should be numbered 104 in the left
hand top corner.

Yours sincerely

A. T. Wilson







(170) 129

No. 3579 of 1913.

Confidential

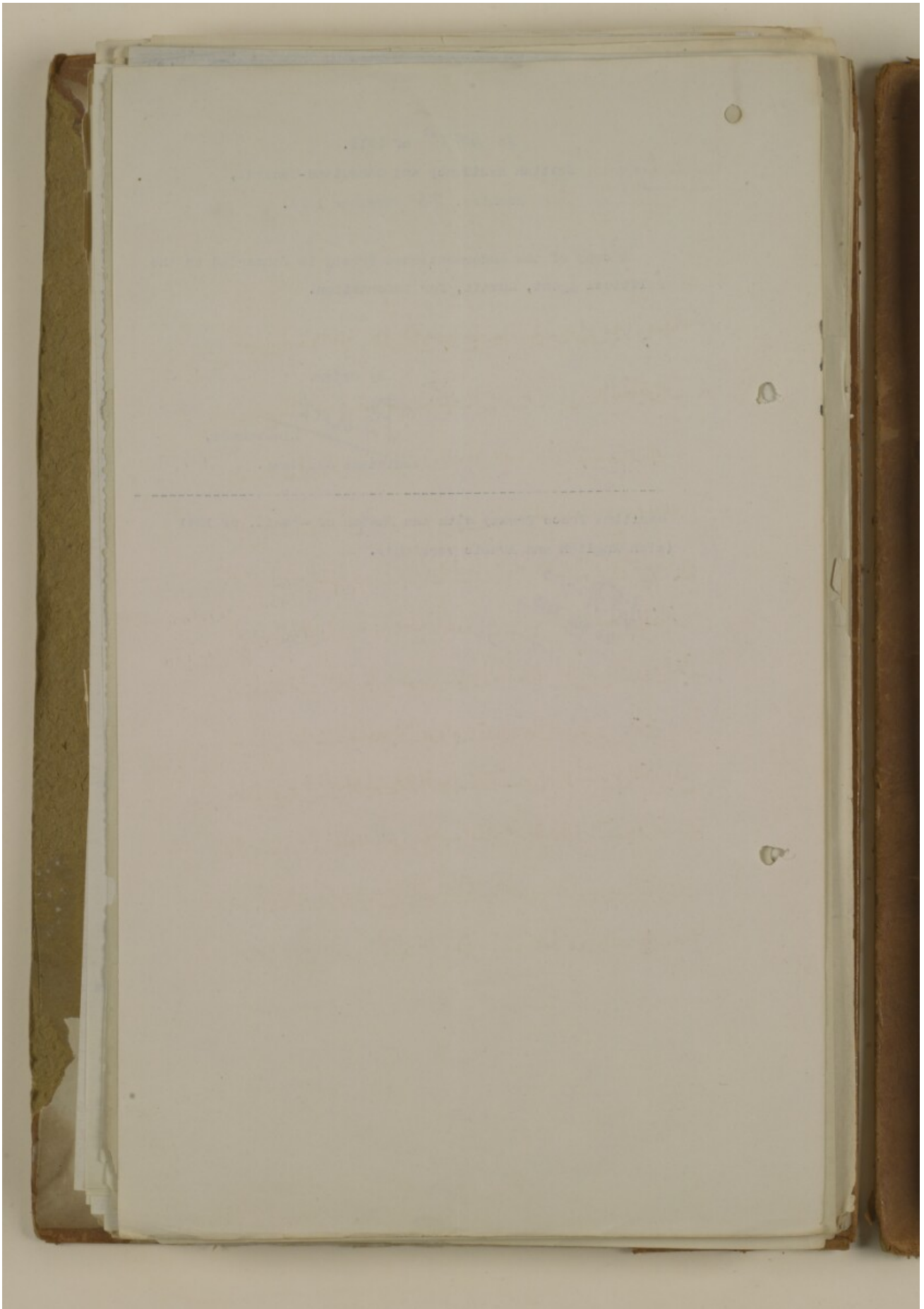
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 26 November 1913.

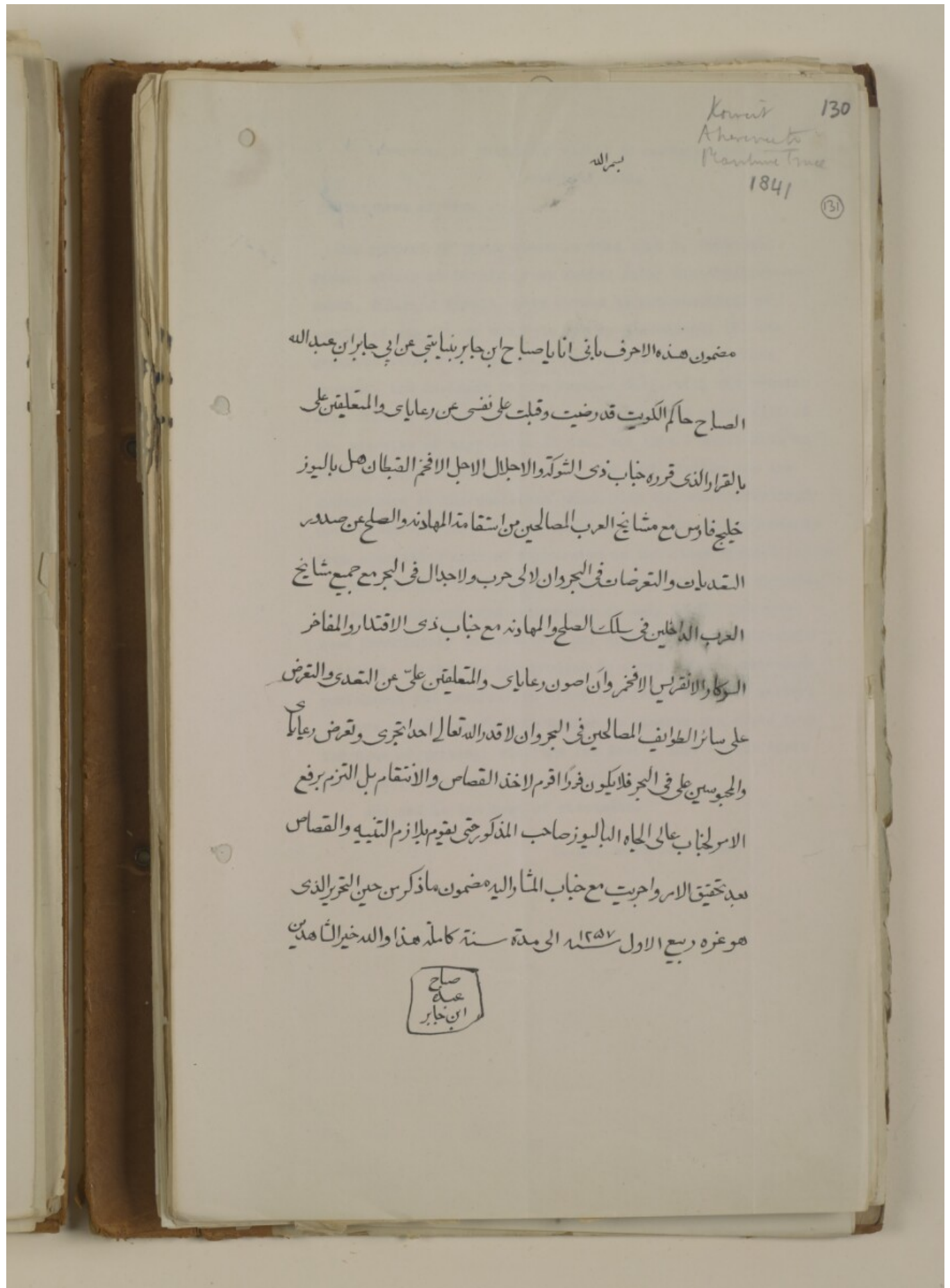
A copy of the undermentioned Treaty is forwarded to the
Political Agent, Kuwait, for information.

By Order,
P. S. Dock
Lieutenant,
Assistant Resident.

Maritime Truce Treaty with the Shaikh of Kuwait, of 1941
(with English and Arabic versions).

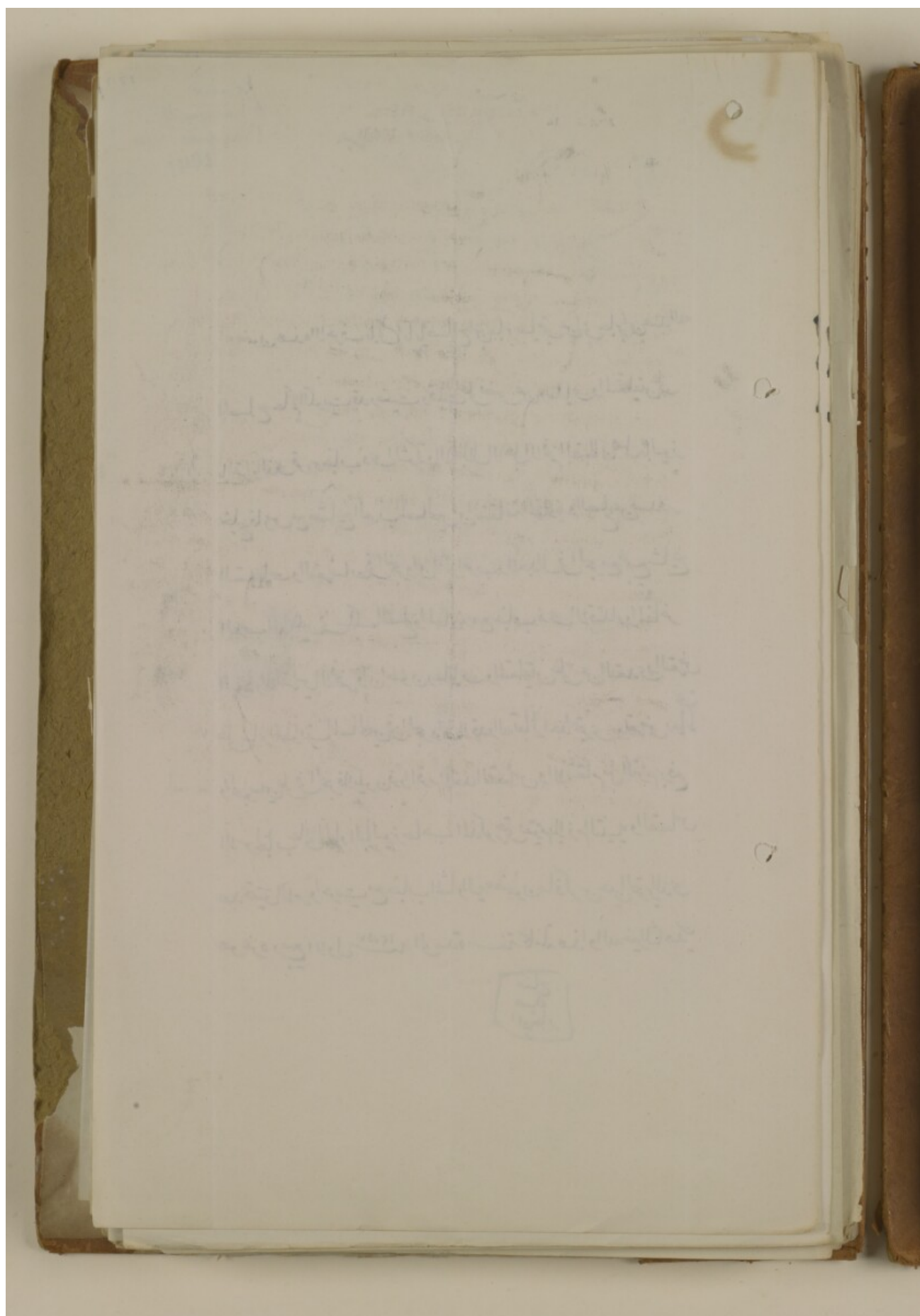
W. H. D.
28. NOV. 1913
C-117





بمشور هذه الاحرف بابني انا يا صاحب ابن جابر بن جابر عن ابني جابر بن عبد الله
 الصالح حاكم الكويت قد رضىت وقبلت على نفسي عن رعائى والتعليق على
 بالقر والذى قرره خباب ذى الشوك والاحبال الاحل الا فخم القبطان هل باليوز
 خليج فارس مع مشايخ العرب المصالحين من استقامة المهادنة والصلح عن صدور
 التعديلات والتعرضات في البحر وان الى حرب والاجبال في البحر مع جميع شايخ
 العرب الداخلين في تلك الصلح والمهادنة مع خباب ذى الاقتدار والمفاخر
 السكا والاقربى الا فخر وان اصون رعائى والتعليق على عن التعدي والتعرض
 على سائر الطوائف المصالحين في البحر وان لا قدر الله تعالى احد تجرى وتعرض رعائى
 والمجوسين على في البحر فلا يكون فدا اقرم الاخذ القصاص والانتقام بل التزم برفع
 الاسر لخباب على الجاه الباليوز صاحب المذكور حتى يقوم بلازم النية والقصاص
 بعد تحقيق الامر واحريت مع خباب المشا واليه مضمون ما ذكر من حين التحرير الذي
 هو غره ربيع الاول سنة ١٢٥٧ الى مدة سنة كاملة هذا والله خير الا هدي

صاحب
 عبد
 ابن جابر





(132) 131

Adherence of Shaikh of Kuwait to Maritime Truce for
one year, 1841.

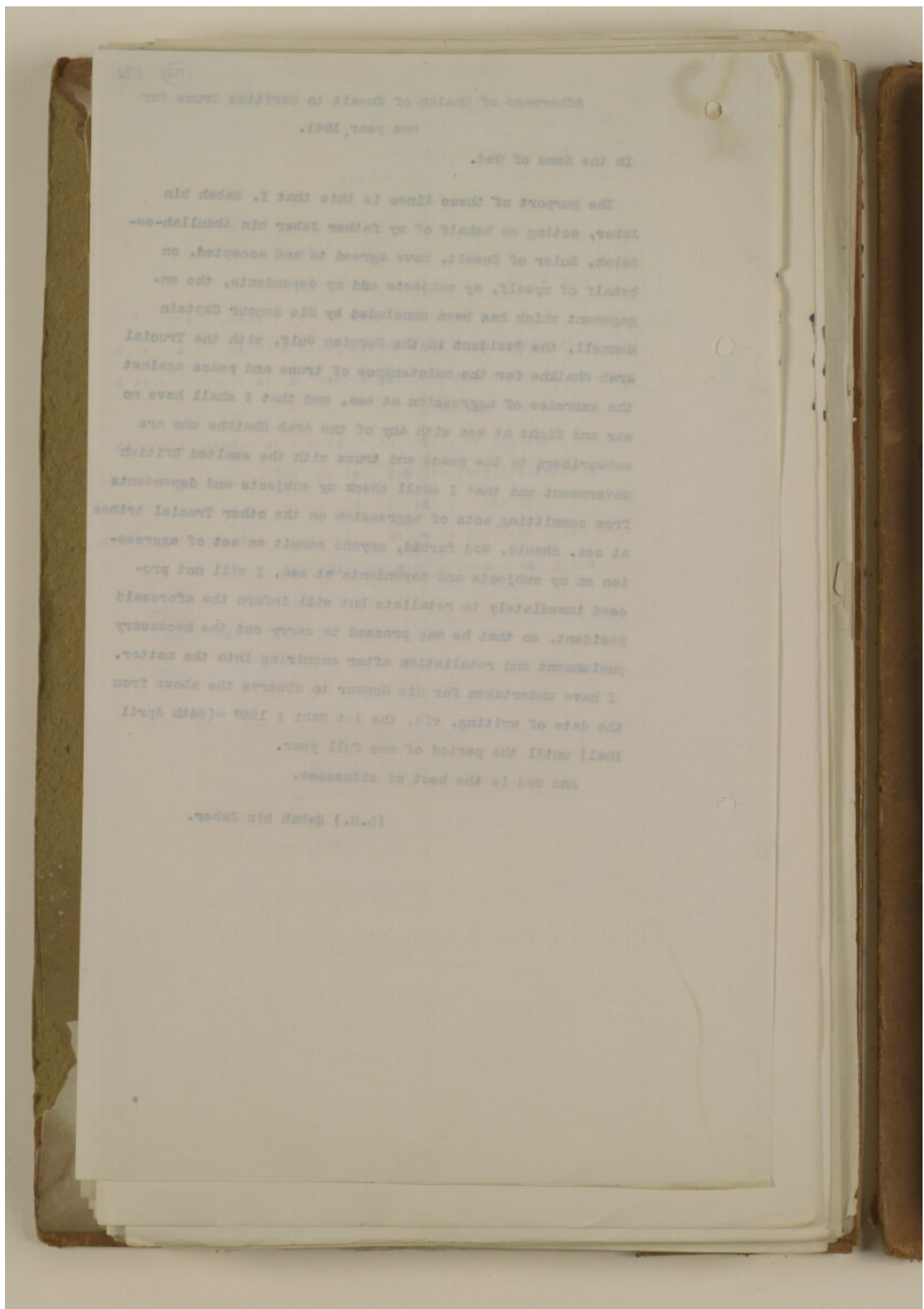
In the Name of God.

The purport of these lines is this that I, Sabah bin Jaber, acting on behalf of my father Jaber bin Abdullah-es-Sabah, Ruler of Kuwait, have agreed to and accepted, on behalf of myself, my subjects and my dependents, the engagement which has been concluded by His Honour Captain Hennell, the Resident in the Persian Gulf, with the Trucial Arab Shaikhs for the maintenance of truce and peace against the exercise of aggression at sea, and that I shall have no war and fight at sea with any of the Arab Shaikhs who are subscribers to the peace and truce with the exalted British Government and that I shall check my subjects and dependents from committing acts of aggression on the other Trucial tribes at sea. Should, God forbidd, anyone commit an act of aggression on my subjects and dependents at sea, I will not proceed immediately to retaliate but will inform the aforesaid Resident, so that he may proceed to carry out the necessary punishment and retaliation after enquiring into the matter.

I have undertaken for His Honour to observe the above from the date of writing, viz, the 1st Rabi I 1257 =(24th April 1841) until the period of one full year.

And God is the best of witnesses.

(L.S.) Sabah bin Jaber.



⑬ 132

POLITICAL RESIDENCY / EKSIAN GIVE /
K-17314

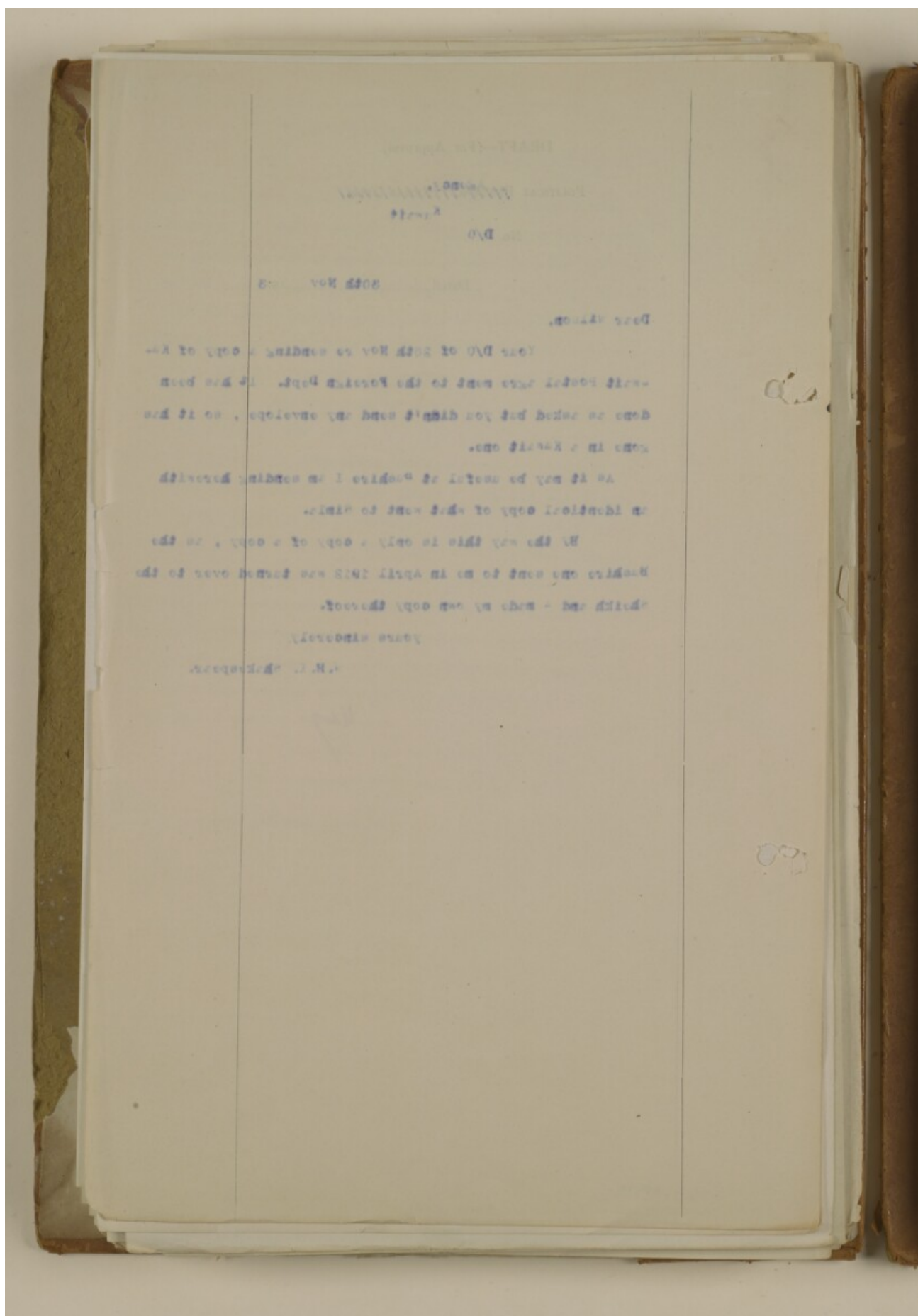
Dated 30th Nov 1913.

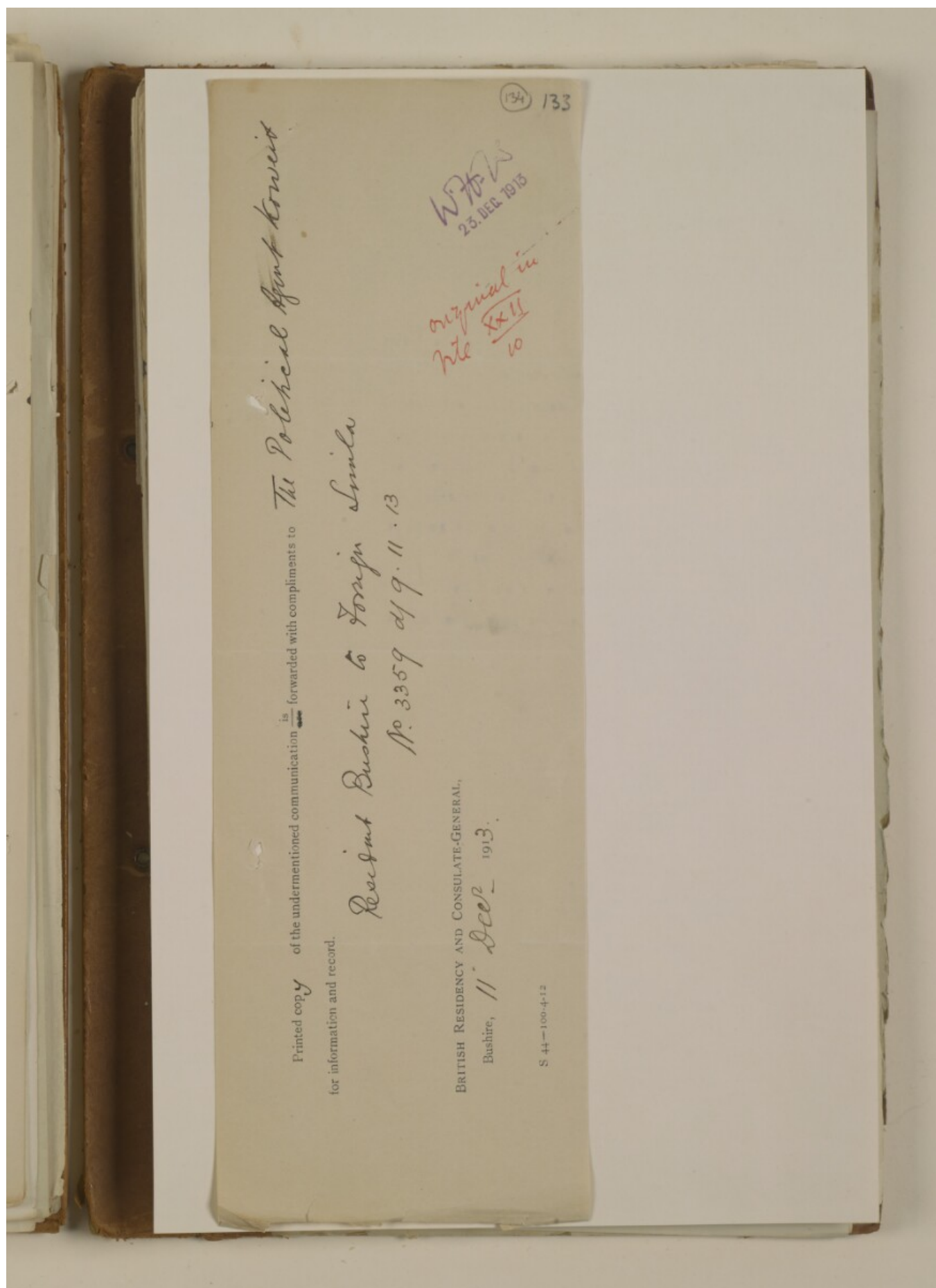
Your D/O of 25th Nov re sending a copy of Kuwait Postal agreement to the Foreign Dept. It has been done as asked but you didn't send any envelope, so it has gone in a Kuwait one.

By the way this is only a copy of a copy, as the Bashire one sent to me in April 1912 was turned over to the Sheikh and I made my own copy thereof.

W. H. I. Shakespear.

из





The Political Agent Koweit

Printed copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to
for information and record.

Resident Bushire to Foreign Simla

No 3359 d 9. 11. 13

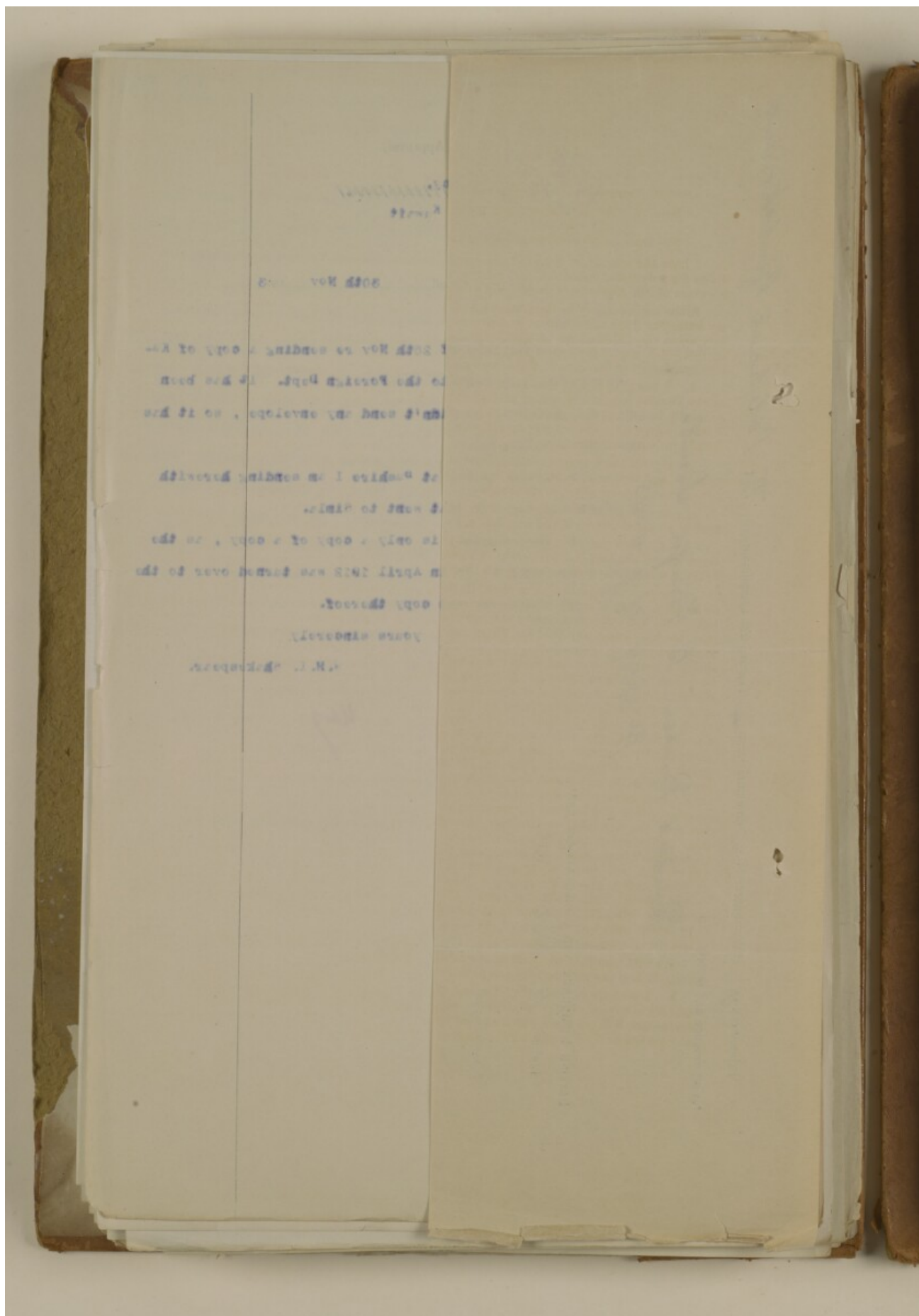
BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Bushire, 11 Decr 1913.

S 44-100-4-12

(134) 133

W.F.W.
23 DEC 1913

original in
file
XXII
10





135 134

No. 3359, dated Bushire, the 9th (received 17th) November 1913 (Confidential).

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR P. Z. COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to revert to the question of the Shaikh of Kuwait's desire for a dynastic guarantee, last referred to in the Government of India's telegram of 9th August to His Majesty's Secretary of State.

Since our interview in the Shatt-el-Arab on 7th July, and the despatch of my letter No. 2102 of 10th idem to Government, Shaikh Mubarak has repeatedly asked the Political Agent whether there was any reply from Government on this point, and at my recent visit he reverted to the subject of the Convention generally and the question of succession in particular.

2. I was glad to find that he had quite reconciled himself to the presence of the Turkish Agent and agreed with us that the chances were that he would generally be able to keep the Agent in his pocket, as Shaikh Khazal does the Persian Karguzar; while if the Agent gave trouble, he would be able to get rid of him with our assistance.

As regards the Customs contingency too, he realised that it was remote at present, and that relying on our co-operation when the time came, he would not concern himself about it meanwhile.

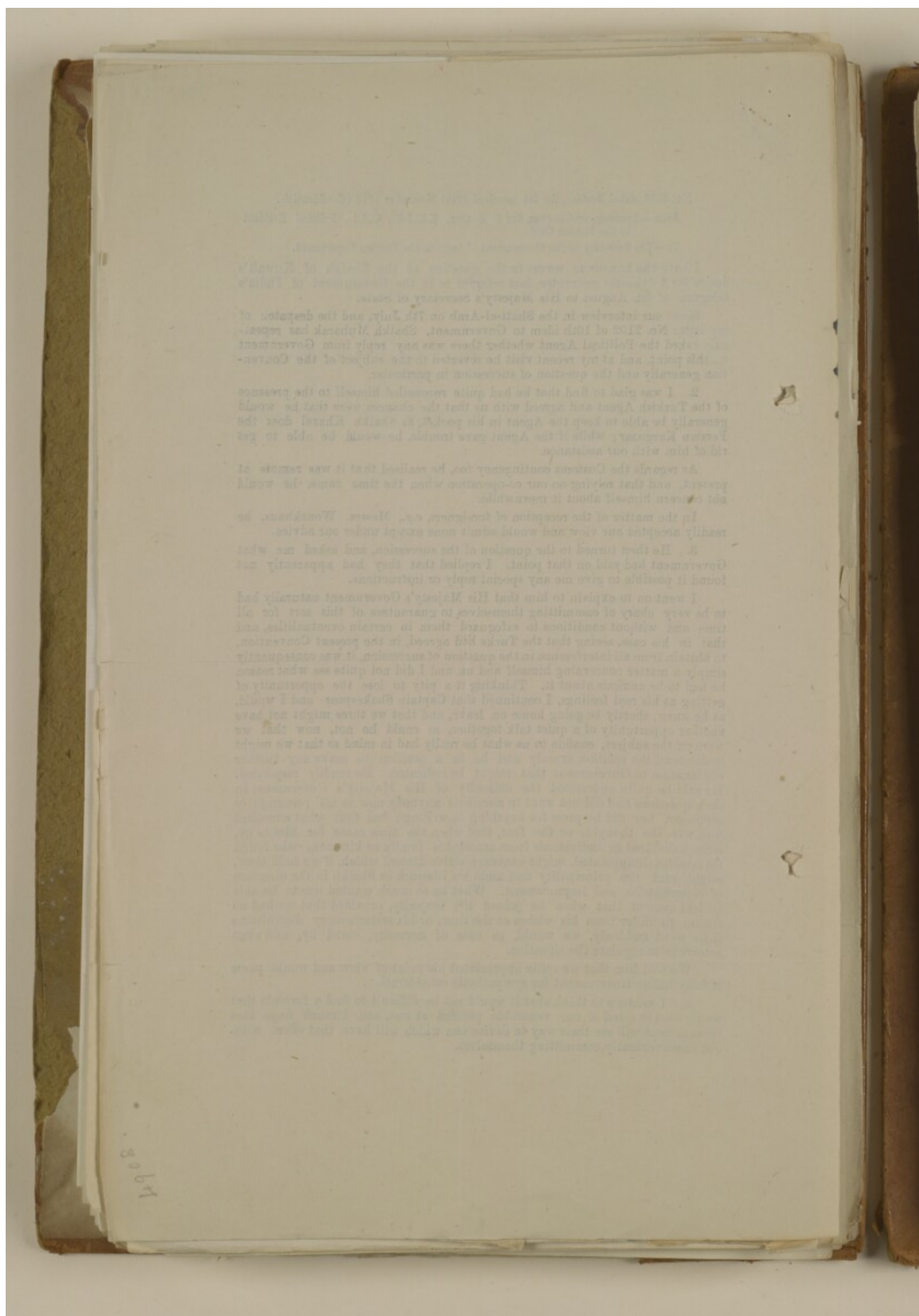
In the matter of the reception of foreigners, *e.g.*, Messrs. Wonekhaus, he readily accepted our view and would admit none except under our advice.

3. He then turned to the question of the succession, and asked me what Government had said on that point. I replied that they had apparently not found it possible to give me any special reply or instructions.

I went on to explain to him that His Majesty's Government naturally had to be very chary of committing themselves to guarantees of this sort for all time and without conditions to safeguard them in certain eventualities, and that in his case, seeing that the Turks had agreed, in the present Convention, to abstain from all interference in the question of succession, it was consequently simply a matter concerning himself and us, and I did not quite see what reason he had to be anxious about it. Thinking it a pity to lose the opportunity of getting at his real feelings, I continued that Captain Shakespear and I would, as he knew, shortly be going home on leave, and that we three might not have another opportunity of a quiet talk together, so could he not, now that we were on the subject, confide to us what he really had in mind so that we might understand the position exactly and be in a position to make any further explanation to Government that might be indicated. He readily responded. He said he quite understood the difficulty of His Majesty's Government in such questions and did not want to nominate anybody now as his presumptive successor, nor did he press for anything in writing; but that what exercised him was the thought, or the fear, that when the time came for him to go, some individual or individuals from among his family or kinsmen, who found themselves disappointed, might engineer active discord which, if we held aloof, might rack the principality and undo his lifework as Shaikh in the direction of consolidation and improvement. What he so much wanted was to be able to feel assured that when he joined the majority, provided that we had no reason to differ from his wishes at the time, or his testamentary dispositions if he went suddenly, we would, in case of necessity, stand by, and even intervene to regulate the situation.

We told him that we quite appreciated his point of view and would place it fully before Government for sympathetic consideration.

4. I venture to think that it would not be difficult to find a formula that would set the mind of our venerable protégé at rest, and I much hope that Government will see their way to devise one which will have that effect without inconveniently committing themselves.





No. 3726, dated Bushire, the 7th (received 14th) December 1913.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to reply to Foreign Department telegram No. 530 S., dated the 26th November 1913, regarding Kuwait succession.

2. I think we might write to the Shaikh as follows:—

Whereas under the terms of the Anglo-Turkish Convention the two Governments have agreed that—

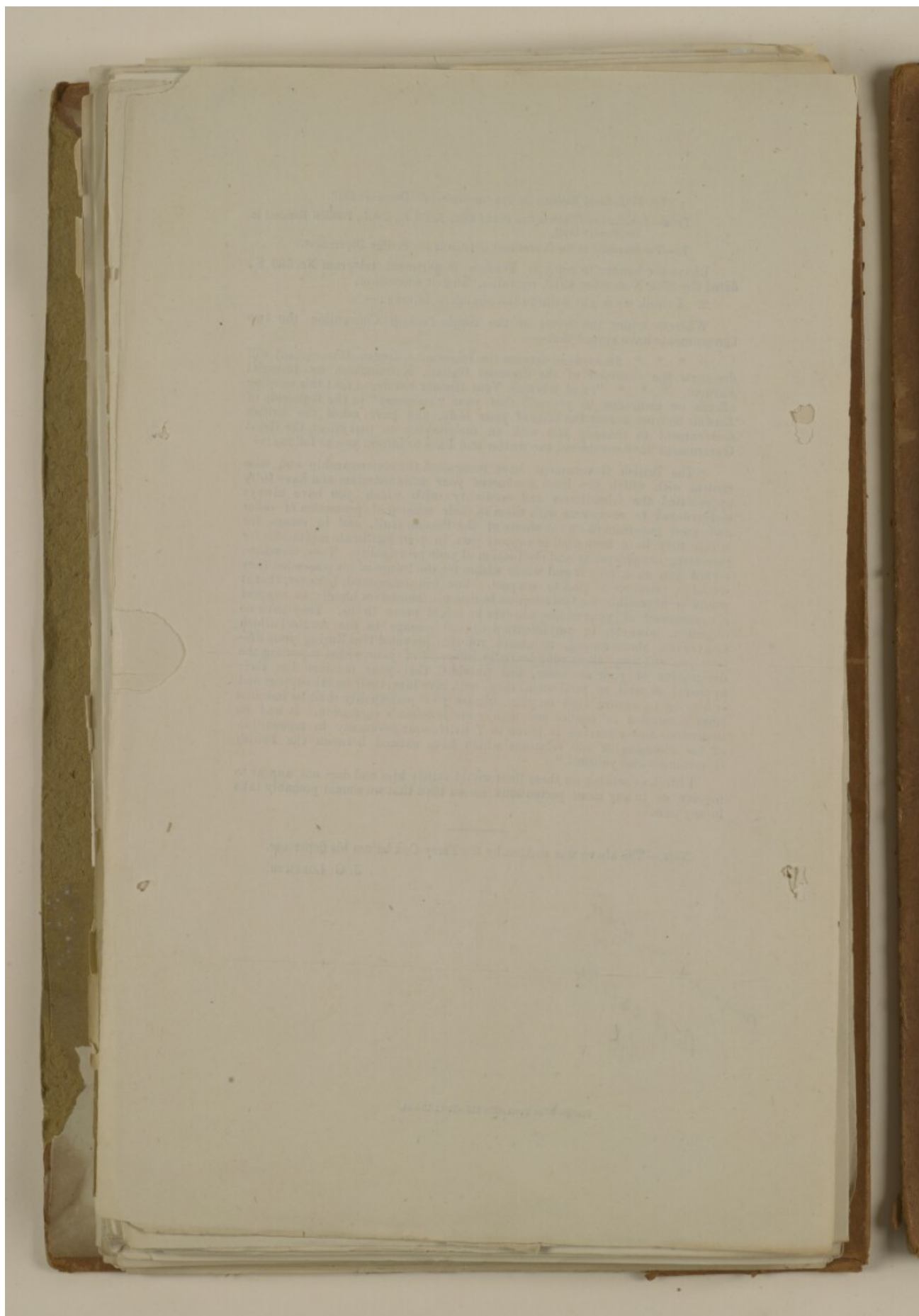
" * * * In event of decease the Imperial Ottoman Government will designate the successor of the deceased Shaikh, Kaimmakam by Imperial Farman. * * * ", and whereas Your Honour has urged that this wording affords no assurance to yourself that your "successor" in the Rulership of Kuwait be from among the heirs of your body, and have asked the British Government to reassure you with an undertaking to that effect, the Great Government have considered the matter and I am to inform you as follows:—

"The British Government have recognised the statesmanship and wise control with which you have conducted your administration and have fully appreciated the friendliness and cordiality with which you have always endeavoured to co-operate with them in their mission of promotion of order and good government on the shores of the Persian Gulf, and in return for which they have been glad to support you in your legitimate aspirations for increasing the prosperity and civilisation of your principality. They, therefore, regard you as a true friend whose wishes for the future of his possession they would in principle be glad to support. You will understand, however, that it would be impossible for Government to commit themselves blindly to support the successor of your choice whoever he might prove to be. They have no objection, however, in amplification of the passage in the Anglo-Turkish Convention above quoted, to assure you that provided that during your lifetime you will keep them confidentially informed of your wishes regarding the designation of your successor, and provided that your nominee has their approval as well as your own, they will give him their moral support and endeavour to ensure that on your demise your principality shall be immune from dissension in connection with your nominee's succession. It will be understood this assurance is given to Your Honour personally in recognition of the closeness of the relations which have existed between the British Government and yourself."

I think something on these lines would satisfy him and does not appear to involve us in any more portentous action than that we should probably take in any case.

Note.—The above was written by Sir Percy Cox before his departure.

J. G. LORIMER.





Confidential D/o dated 23/3/14.

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(137)

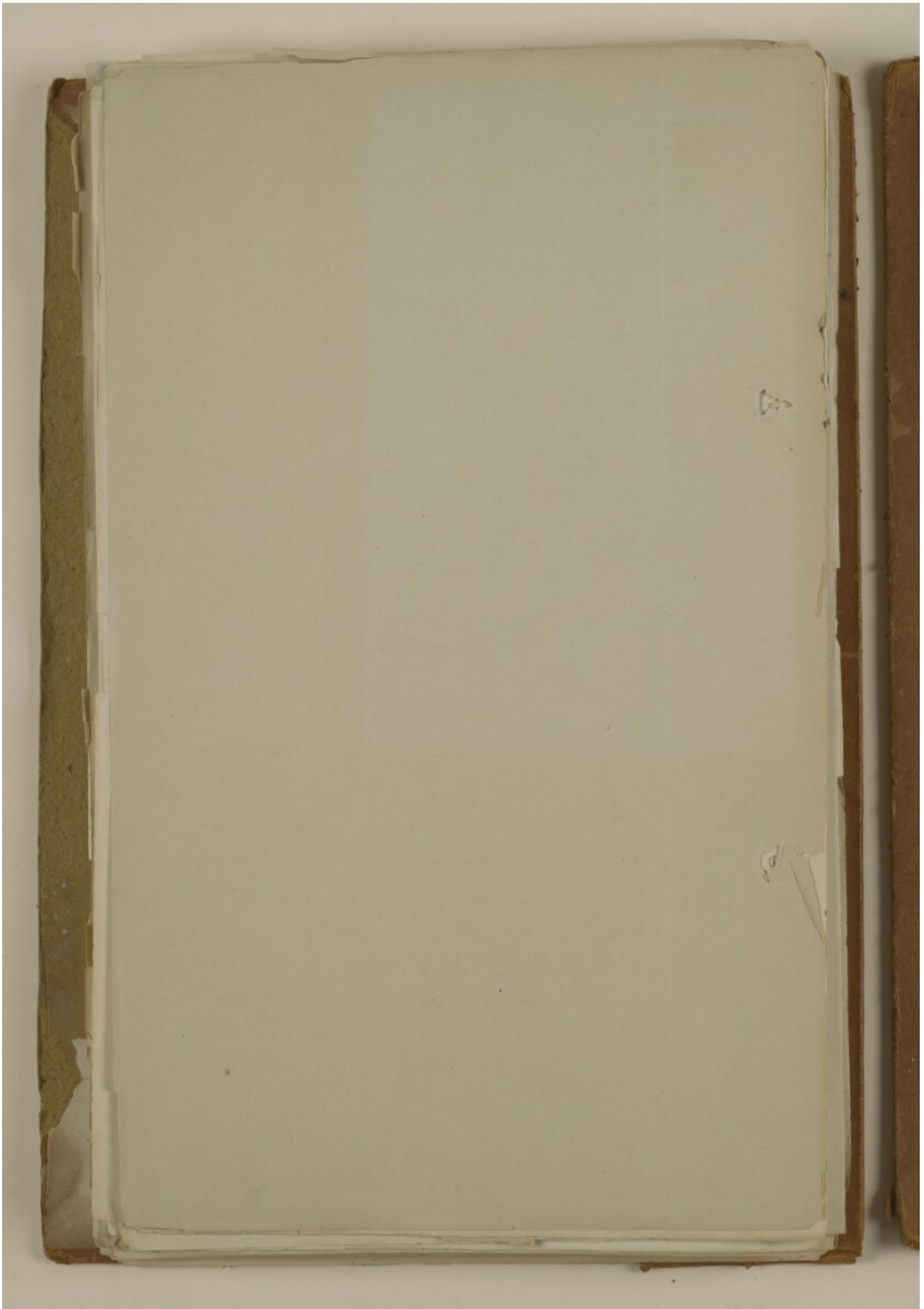
My dear Knox,

We have not yet received a reply to Bonshire letter No 3726 dated 7-12-13 on the subject of the Koweit succession. No doubt we shall get one soon, but having regard to Sir Mubarak's failing advanced age, his failing health & serious illness of last summer, the advent of the hot weather and the uncertainty of human life generally, it would perhaps be as well to have some settled course of policy which would be followed locally in the event of the Shaikh's sudden decease. It is quite impossible to say what would happen here ~~we~~ if the Arabs ~~are~~ left entirely themselves.

I propose, pending the receipt of instructions, to keep myself confidentially informed from time to time of the Shaikh's wishes in regard to his succession, and, provided that no extraordinary reason exists for taking a different course, will, should he die suddenly, take such action as may be necessary to enable the nominee to enter quietly upon his inheritance and carry on the ~~rule~~ Government of the principality: it being understood that action will only be taken by me in case of necessity to ensure the wishes of the deceased ruler being carried out.

Yours sincerely

L. Grey





Very Confidential

138 137

BUSHIRE.

3/4 1904.

My dear Frey,

Thanks for your cpl. No. of 3rd March. A reply to the letter you speak of goes to you by this mail & I shall be glad if you will remind me as soon as you know definitely that the Anglo-Turkish Convention has been ratified, in case of G.O. I instructions being accidentally overlooked here.

You would, of course, rightly carry on in the lines you suggest



Should the Mubarak die
suddenly & I hope
you would experience
no difficulty. I think a very little
recognition by yourself would
suffice to keep things quiet.

I have no doubt too that
instructions will come showering
on us if, or rather when Mubarak
dies & I should certainly come
over with instructions as soon
as possible.

I much doubt the necessity
of talking the matter over with
the Sheikh unless he himself
raises it, as he no doubt will
from time to time. There has

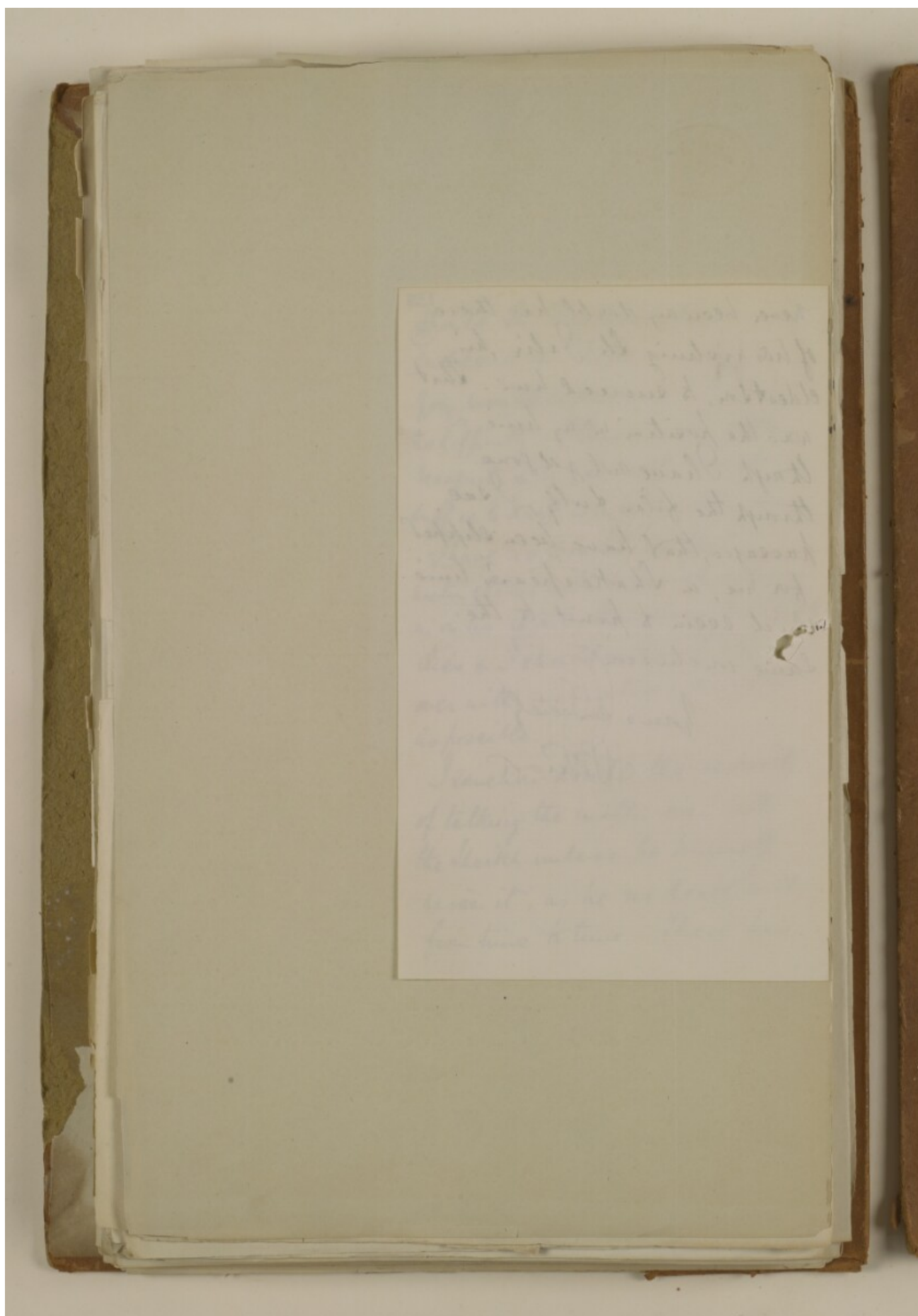


at die
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self would
quiet.
too that
me showering
when Hobarak
family conse
tion as som

the necessity
ter over with
he himself
no doubt will
There has

never been any doubt has there¹³⁸
of his wishing Sh. Jalir, his⁽¹³⁹⁾
eldest son, to succeed him. That
was the position in my time &
though I have not yet gone
through the files fully, I see
passages, that have been slipped
for me, in Shakespeare's time
which seem to point to the
same conclusion.

Yours sincerely
J. M. M.





140 139
Very confidential.

No. 973 of 1914.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 4th April 1914.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information, in continuation of this office endorsement No. 3773 dated 10th December 1913.

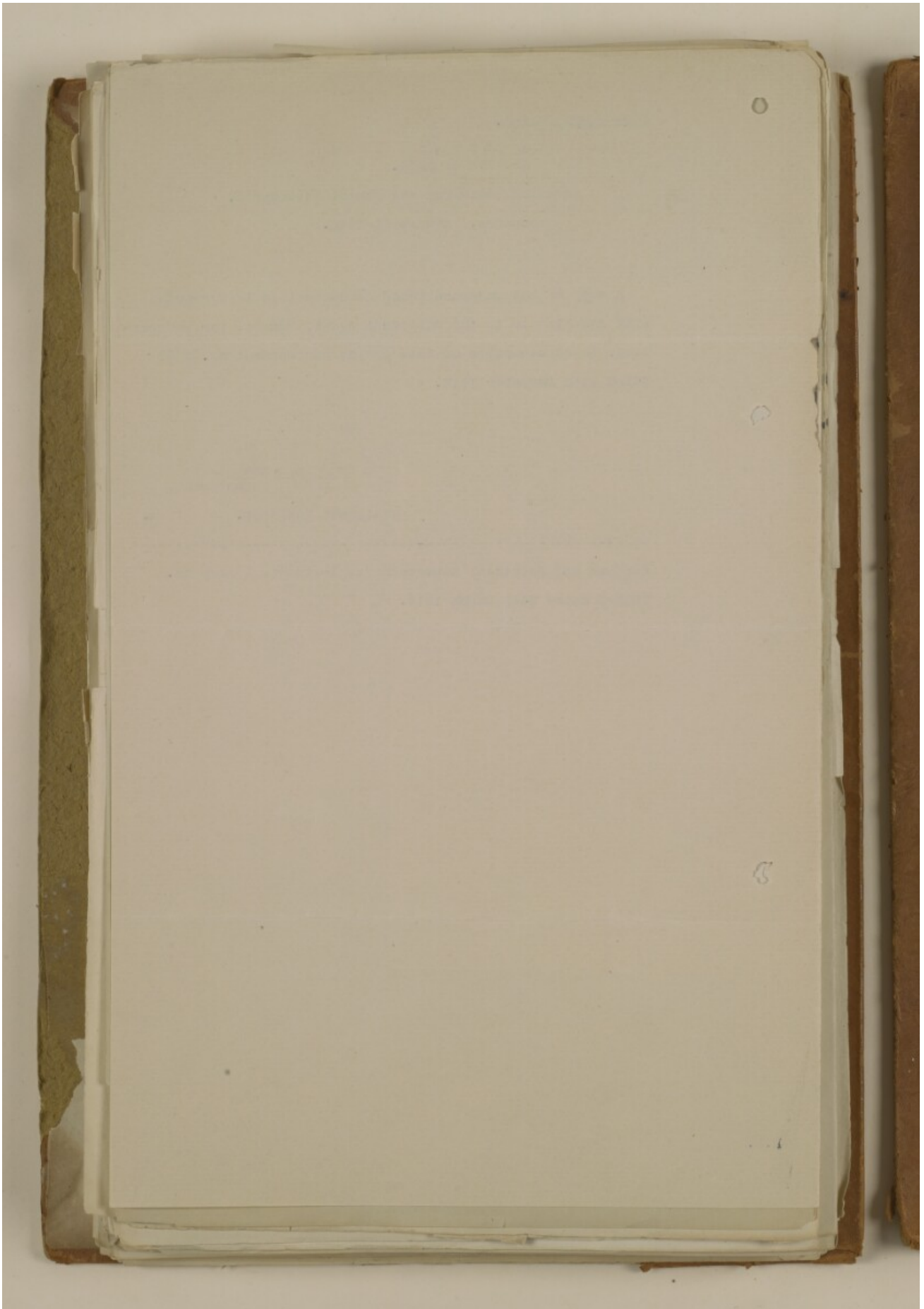
By Order,

P. G. Loch

Lieutenant,
Assistant Resident.

Foreign and Political Department to Resident, letter No. 1518-D dated 24th March 1914.

R.F.



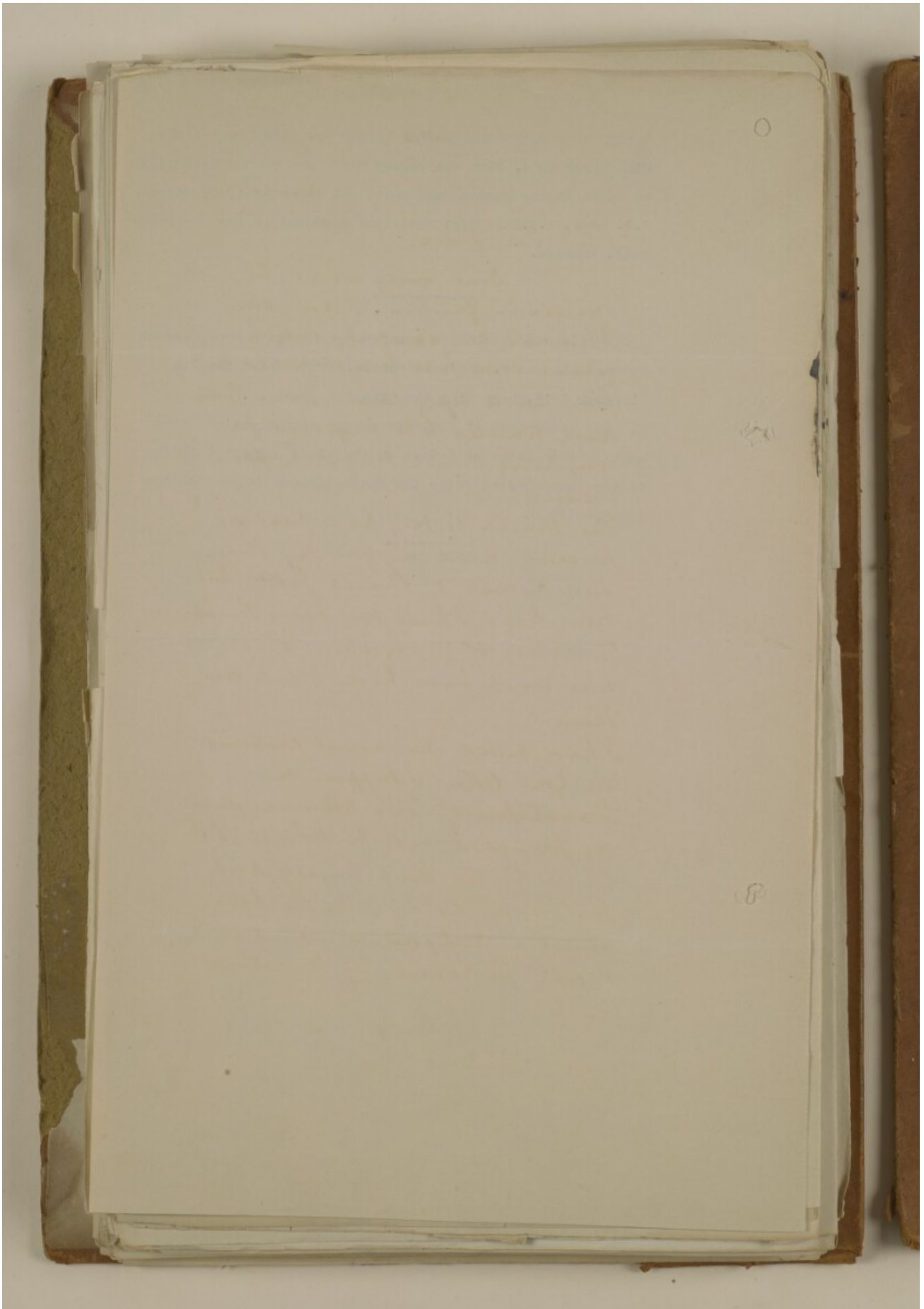


(141) 140

A copy of a very confidential letter No. 1518-D dated the 24th March 1914, from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, to Major S.G. Knox, C.I.E., Offg: Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I am directed to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with Sir P. Cox's letter No. 3726, dated the 7th December 1913, regarding the Kuwait succession.

2. The Government of India approve a communication being made to the Shaikh of Kuwait on the lines suggested in the letter above quoted after the Anglo-Turkish Convention has been ratified.





D/o
OFFICE NOTE.

Apr 14th 1914.

My dear Kuva

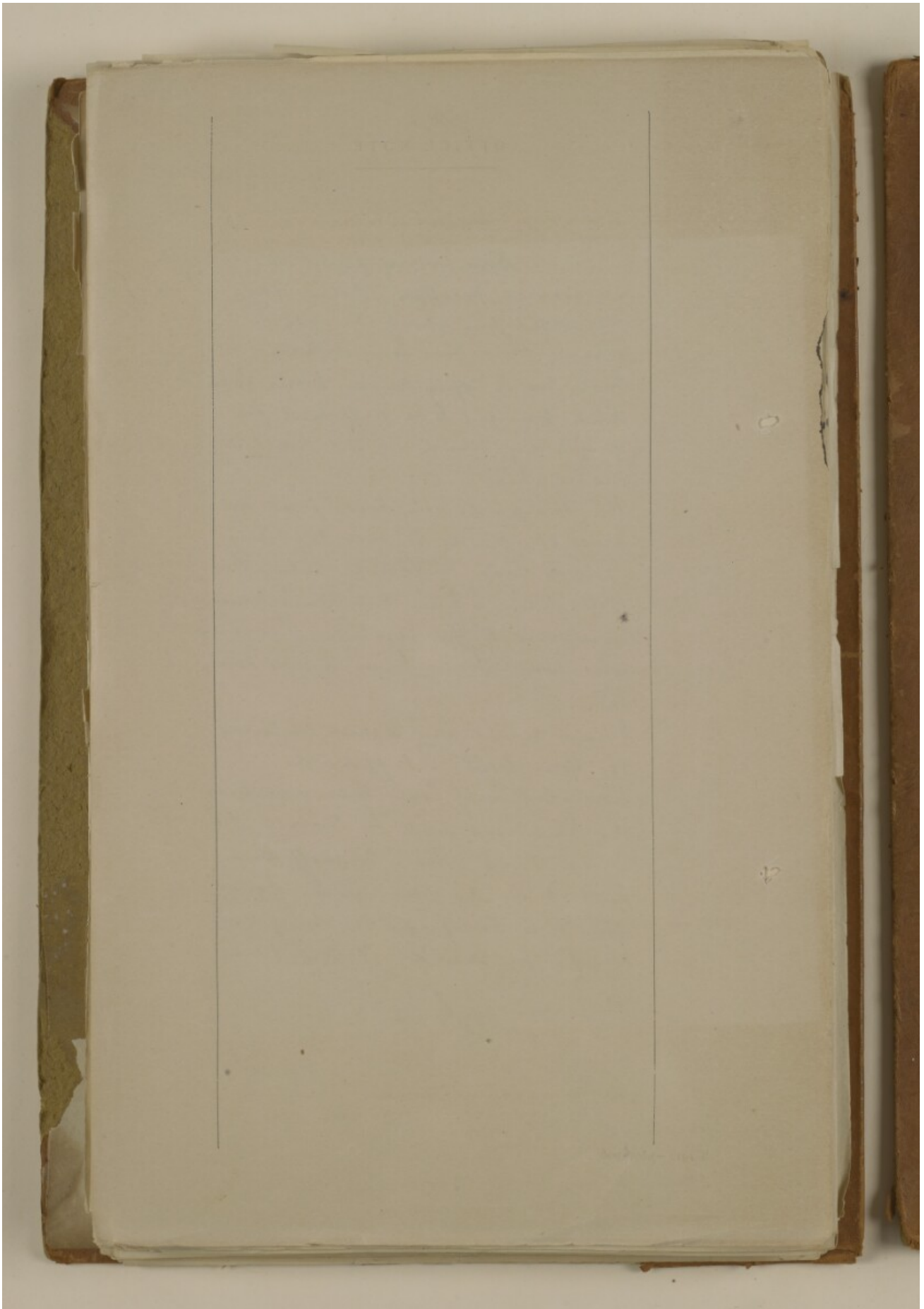
Don't worry about the Succession question, I am sorry I troubled you about it, only I wasn't sure how long it would be before a reply came to our letter and wanted to be prepared for anything which might happen meanwhile.

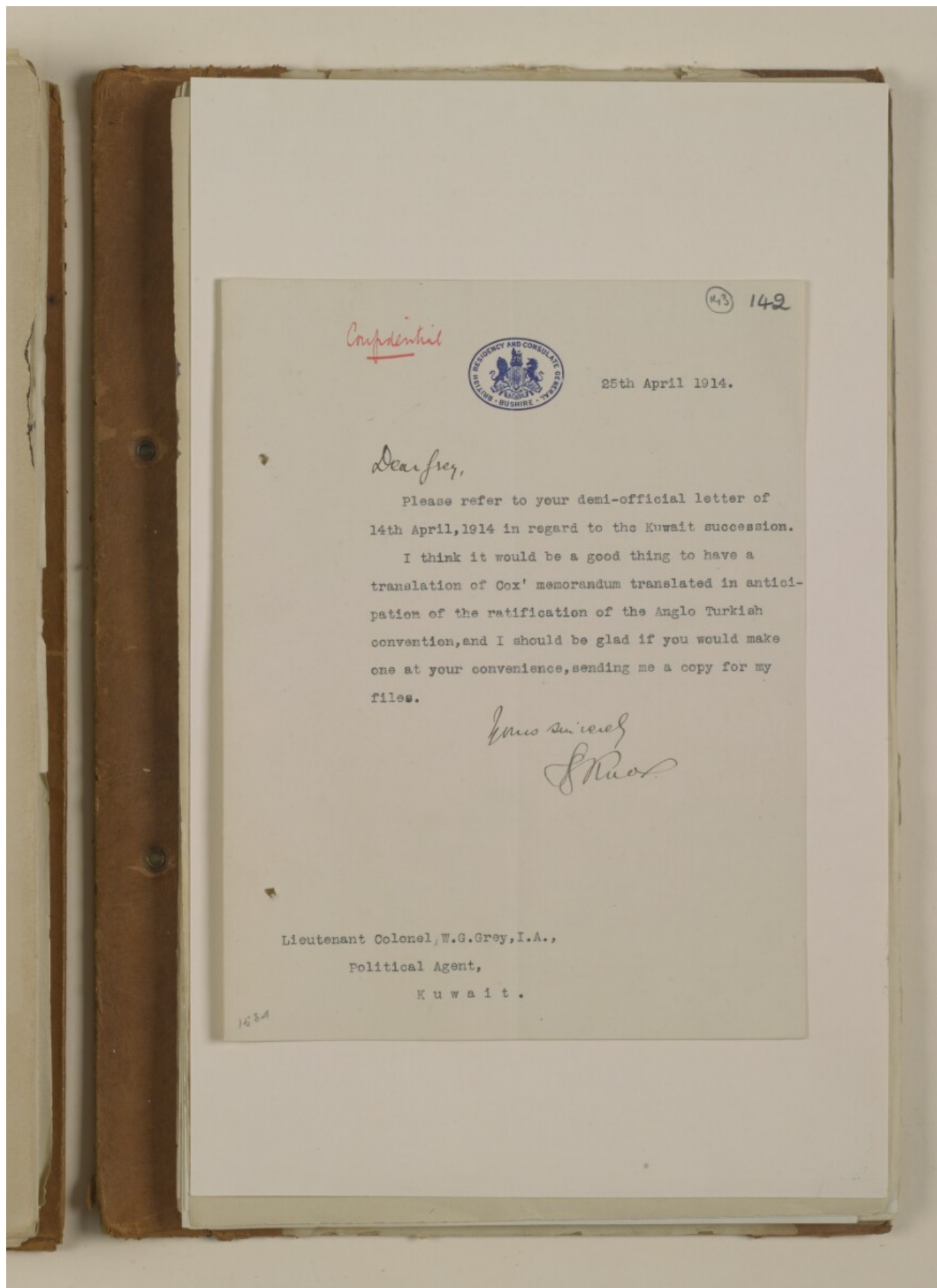
The Shaikh is very well just at present, and as you say it is still a case of Shaikh Jabir. But from time to time one hears sinister rumours of the existence of factions who want have him to rule over them.

I have noted the request contained in your letter. I suppose a translation of Cox's memorandum as prepared will be suitable, & I could make that myself and put it in as soon as the Agreement is ratified, sending you a copy for record, if that would do?

W. H. 14/4

S 1918-5,000-3-06





Confidential



25th April 1914.

Dear Grey,

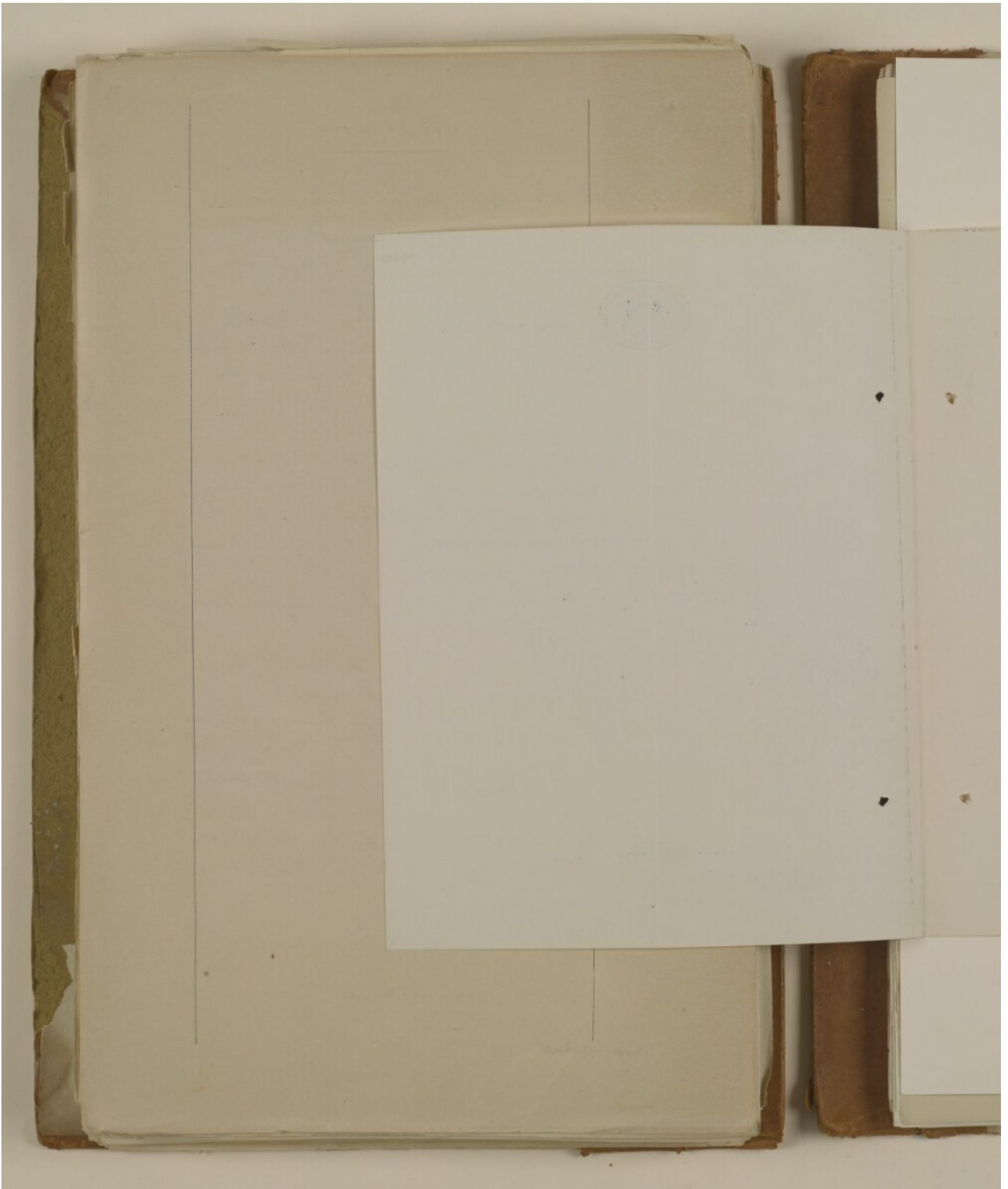
Please refer to your demi-official letter of 14th April, 1914 in regard to the Kuwait succession.

I think it would be a good thing to have a translation of Cox' memorandum translated in anticipation of the ratification of the Anglo Turkish convention, and I should be glad if you would make one at your convenience, sending me a copy for my files.

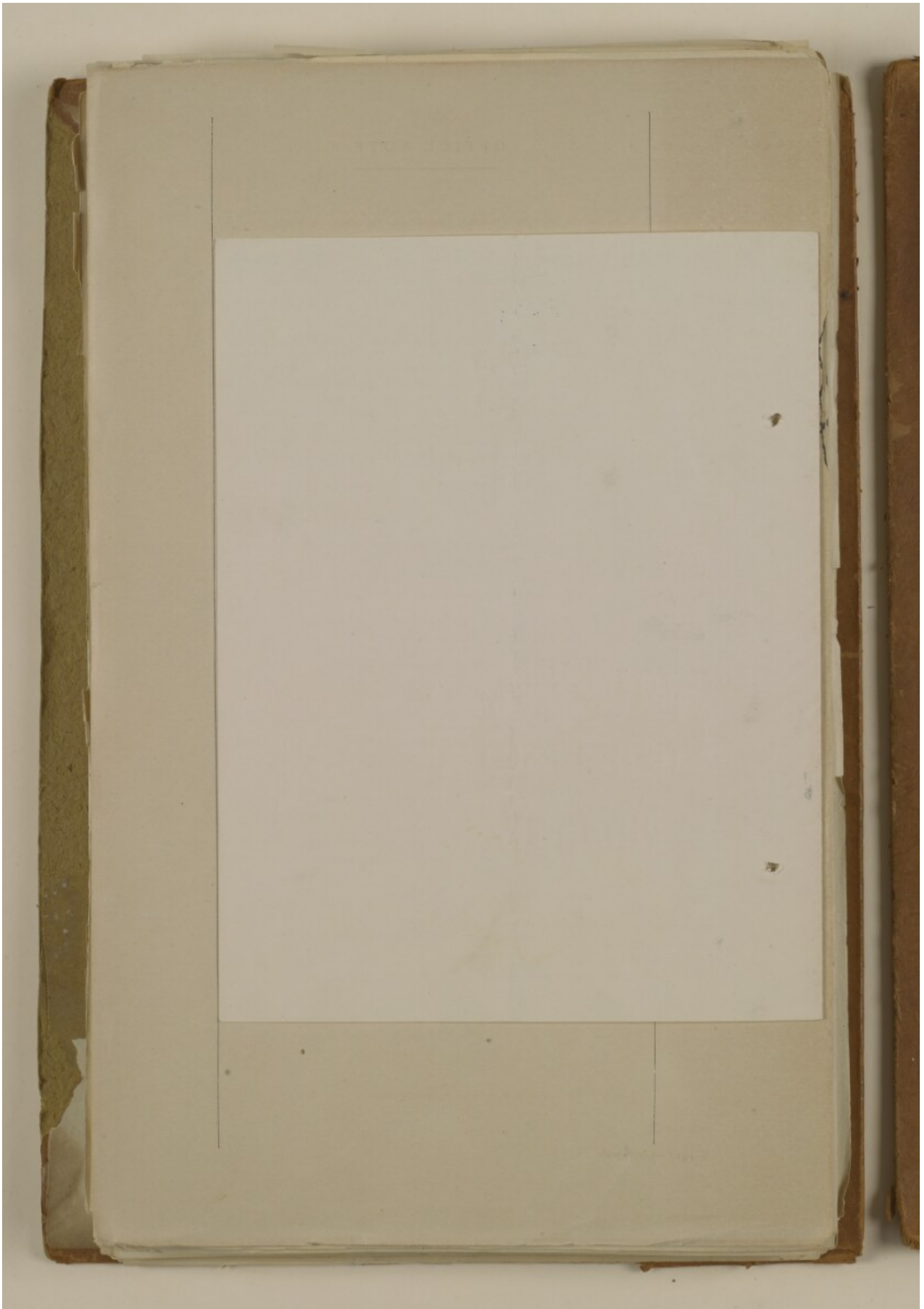
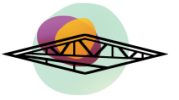
Yours sincerely
J. M. A.

Lieutenant Colonel, W.G. Grey, I.A.,
Political Agent,
Kuwait.

1634









Kuwait
(Trucial)

145 144
Kuwait

No. 3557, dated Bushire, the 24th November (received 9th December) 1913 (Confidential).

FROM—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR P. Z. COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

TO—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with Foreign Department letter No. 341-E.B., dated 24th January 1906, regarding a compilation of treaties between the British Government and the Trucial Chiefs.

The custom inaugurated in 1904, of handing to each Chief, on his accession, a copy of the principal Treaties by which his predecessors were bound, coupled with an invitation to him to notify unreservedly his acceptance of them and other obligations attaching to him in practice, apart from formal conventions, has been found to be convenient and useful, and has led to a suggestion that a similar, but confidential, publication, covering the English and Arabic versions of all treaties and undertakings of importance between the British Government and the other Rulers on the Arab Coast with whom we are in Treaty relations, would prove of similar use and value.

2. I have therefore under compilation, with the assistance of the Political Agents concerned, a collection of such documents, both in the original Arabic and in English, and have the honour to submit the collection regarding Kuwait herewith.

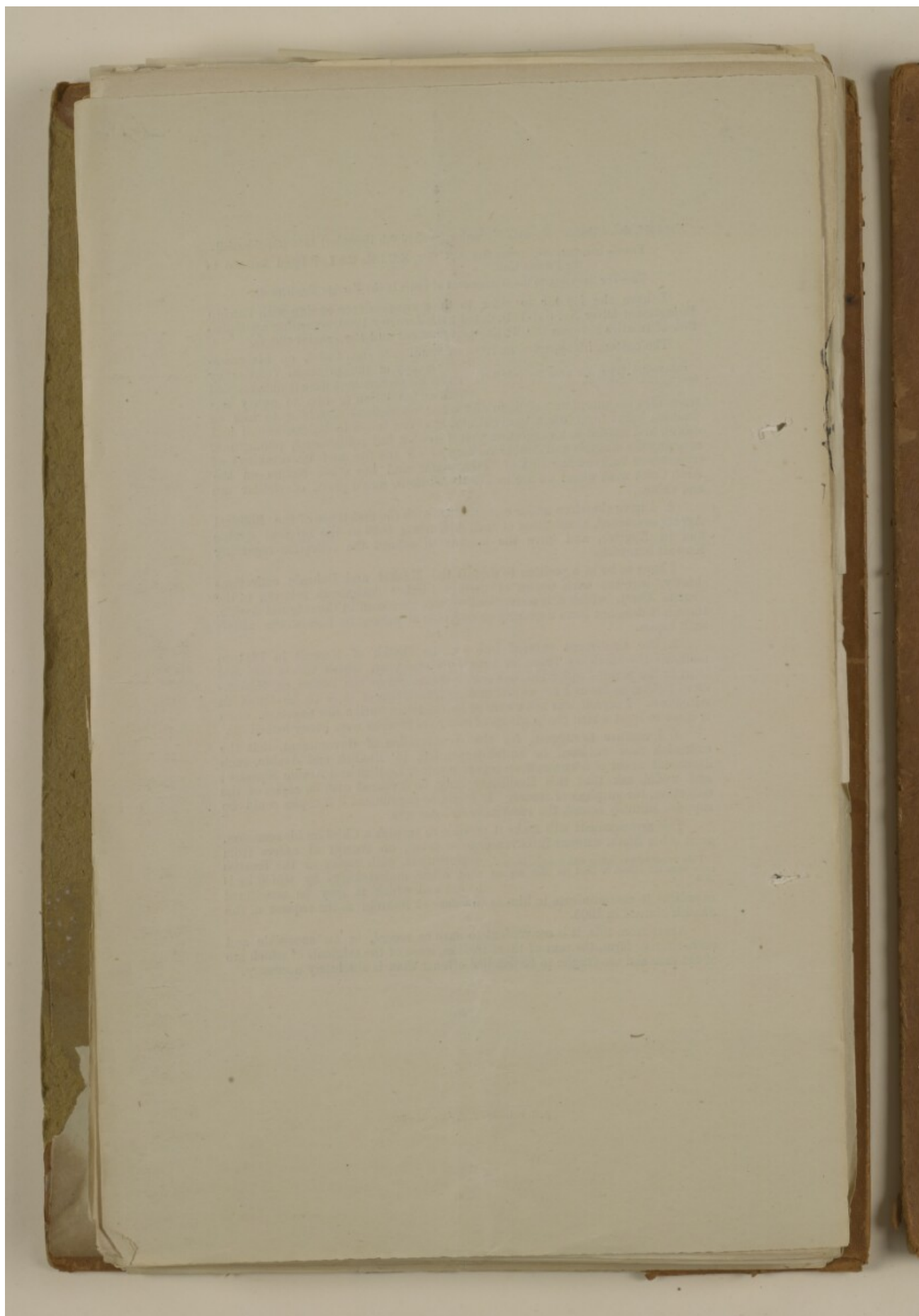
I hope to be in a position to submit the Maskat and Bahrain collections shortly, together with copies of certain further documents relating to the Trucial Coast, which it is convenient to have on record in the original Arabic, though it does not seem necessary or desirable at present to furnish the Chiefs with copies.

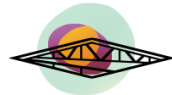
3. The agreement entered into by the Shaikh of Kuwait in 1841 to maintain the Maritime Truce for a period of one year, which forms the first item in the present collection, has not been brought to the notice of Government before, as far as I am aware, and no translation of it is to be found in Aitchison. I myself was not aware of its existence until a few days ago, when it came to light whilst the originals of other old treaties were being looked for.

4. I venture to suggest, for the consideration of Government, that the collection now enclosed be suitably printed, in English and Arabic, each document or set of documents on separate pages, English and Arabic separate; and would ask that this Residency may be favoured with 30 copies of the collection, for purposes of record. It would be convenient if 5 copies could be supplied suitably bound, the remainder in loose sets.

This arrangement will make it possible to furnish a Chief on his accession, or at other times, without inconvenience or delay, on receipt of orders from Government, with copies of the Treaties and other undertakings by which he is bound and which it may be considered expedient to communicate to him as was done at Bahrain at the request of the Shaikh himself in 1905.

Apart from this, it is convenient to have on record, in an accessible and authoritative form, the text of these treaties, some of the originals of which are of old date and too fragile to be handled oftener than is absolutely necessary.





Relation with
K.

Basmah
Jan 22nd 1915

(146)

My dear Grey,
I enclose a copy, with rough translation of the Adherence to the Maritime Truce of the Shaikh of Kuwait, dated 1841, in case you have not already got a copy of it on your files.

It might be well to show it to the Shaikh, in case the Viceroy should refer to it when he meets him.

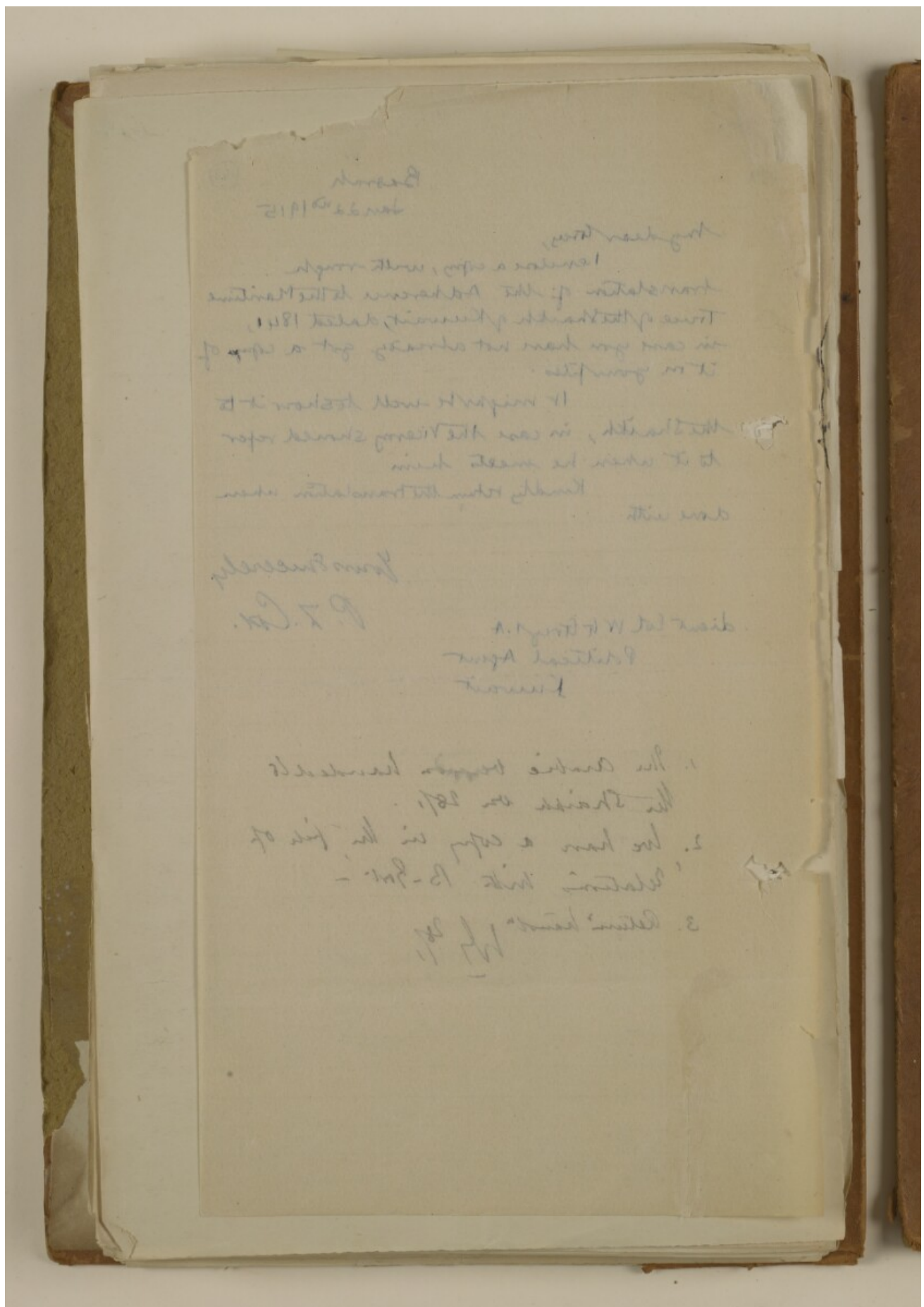
Kindly return the translation when done with.

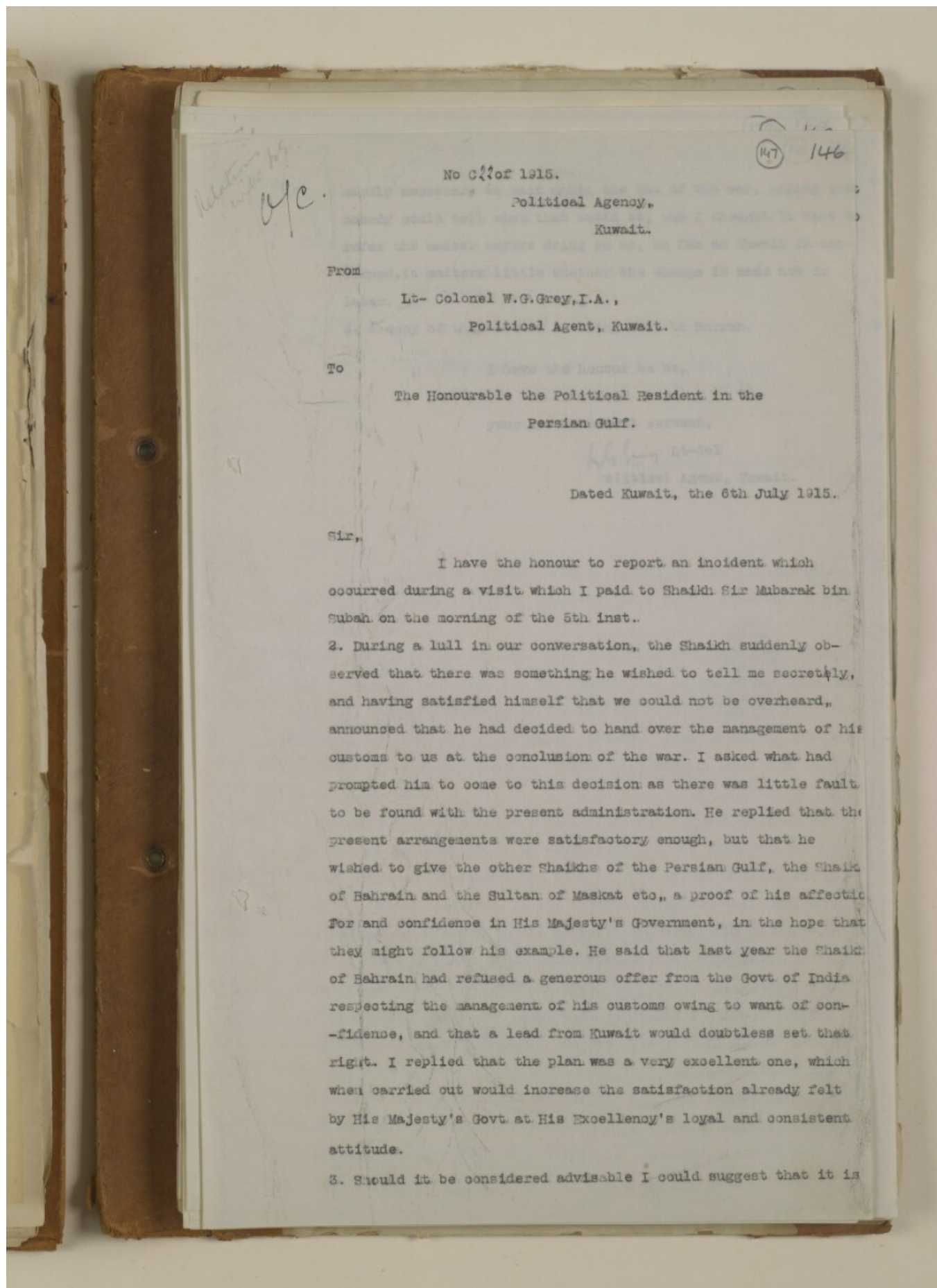
Yours sincerely,

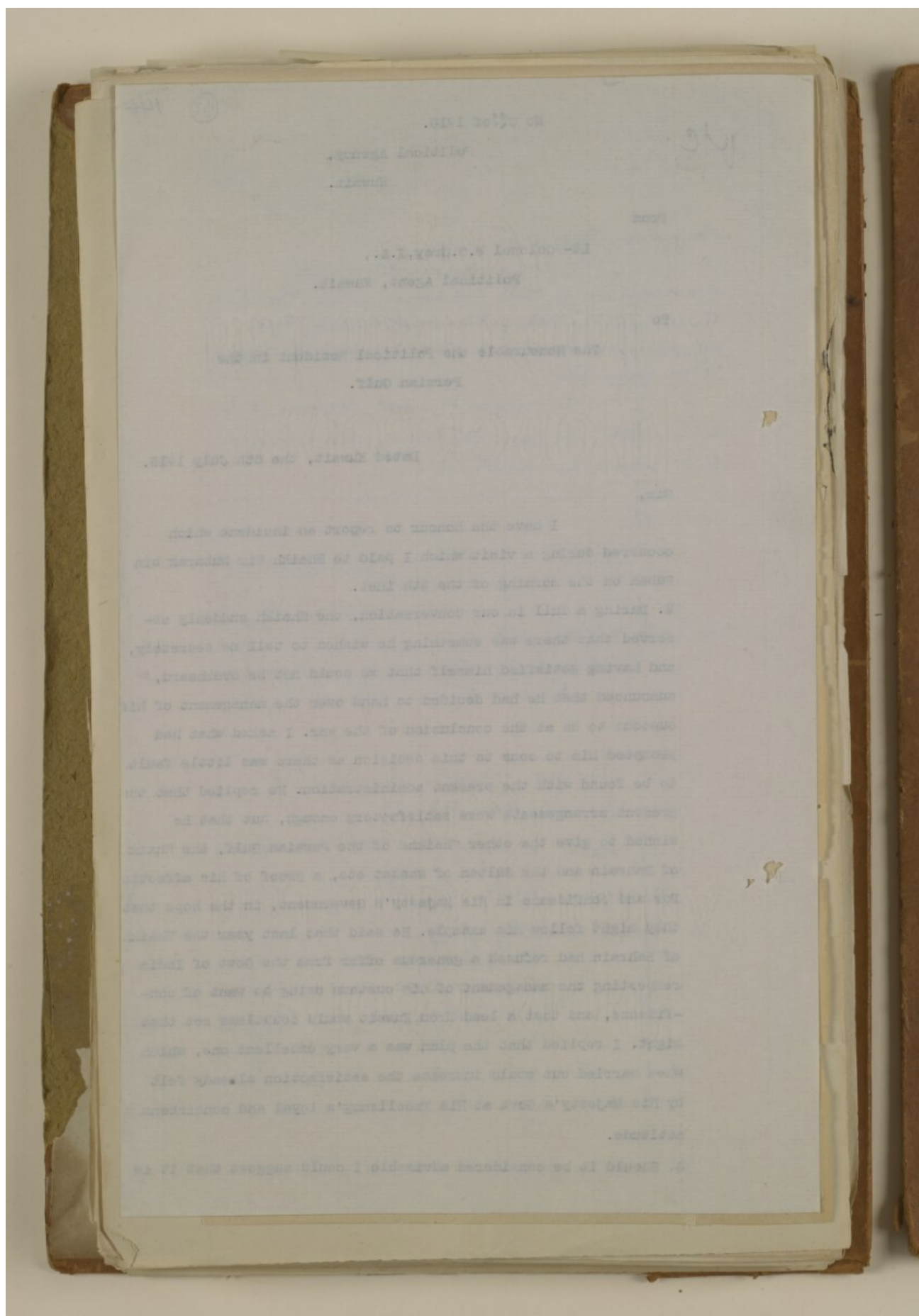
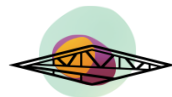
P. Z. Cox.

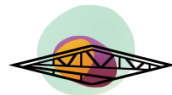
Lieut Col W H Grey I.A.
Political Agent
Kuwait

1. The Arabic version handed to the Shaikh on 28/1.
2. We have a copy in the file of 'Relations with B-Govt' -
3. Return 'hand' W H 28/1









148 147

hardly necessary to wait until the end of the war, adding that nobody could tell when that would be, but I thought it best to refer the matter before doing so as, so far as Kuwait is concerned, it matters little whether the change is made now or later.

4. A copy of this letter is being sent to Basrah.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

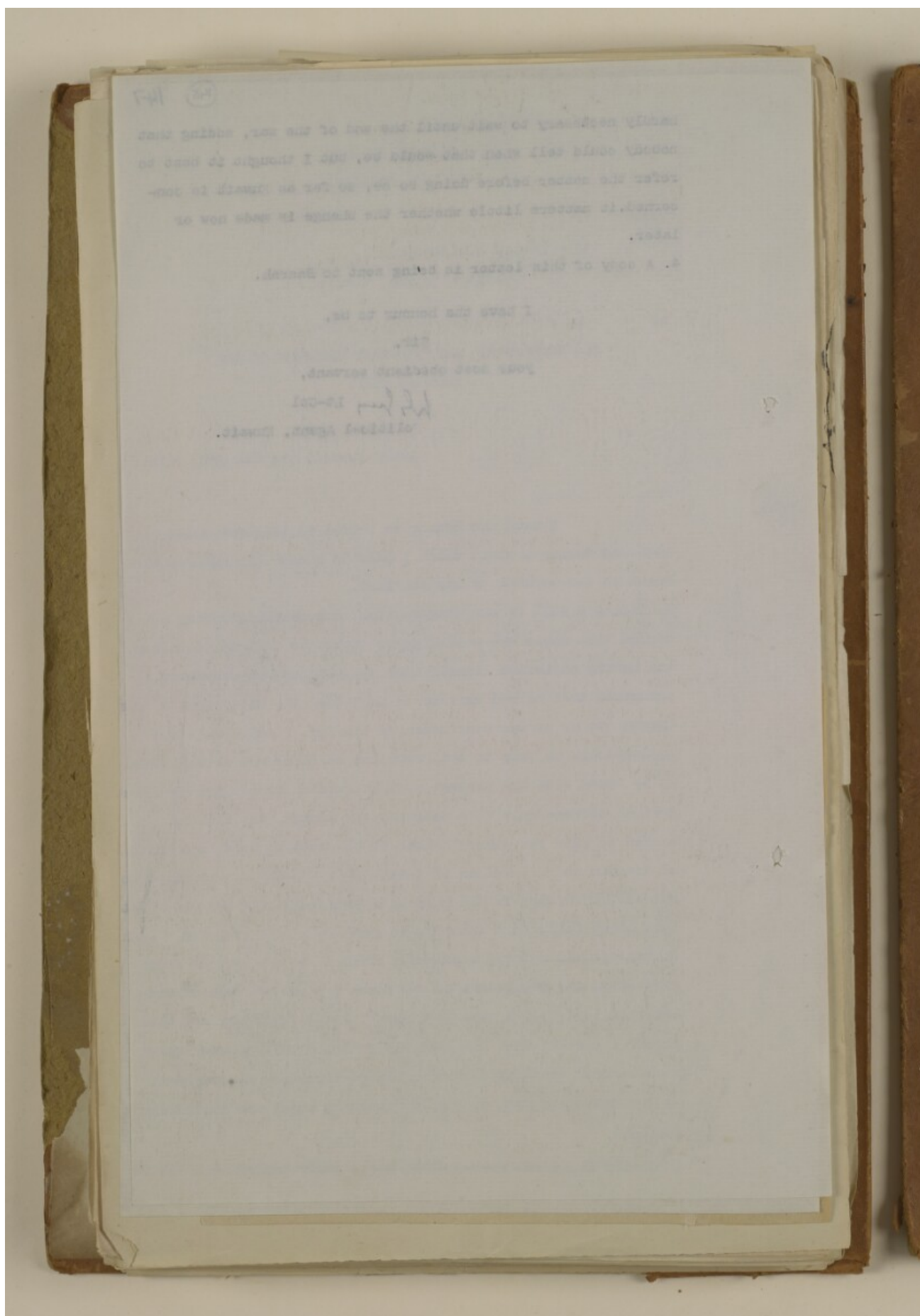
H. H. H. Lt-Col
Political Agent, Kuwait.

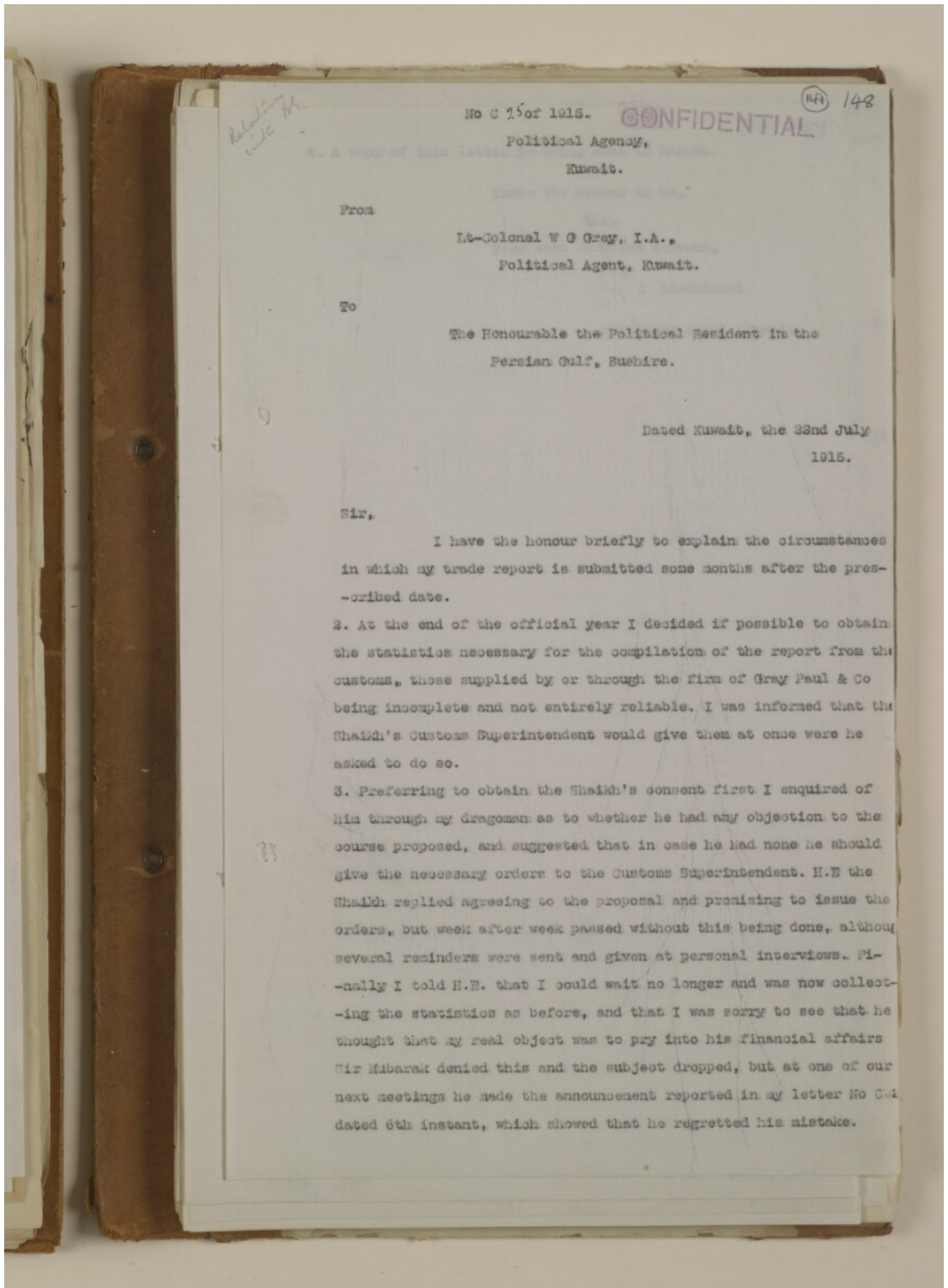
Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in which you state that you are desirous of obtaining the necessary authority for the importation of the goods from the customs, which authority is at present withheld by the customs being under the impression that the goods are not being imported for the purpose of the customs.

2. At the end of the official paper I enclose a copy of the certificate of the customs authority for the importation of the goods from the customs, which authority is at present withheld by the customs being under the impression that the goods are not being imported for the purpose of the customs.

3. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the certificate of the customs authority for the importation of the goods from the customs, which authority is at present withheld by the customs being under the impression that the goods are not being imported for the purpose of the customs. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in which you state that you are desirous of obtaining the necessary authority for the importation of the goods from the customs, which authority is at present withheld by the customs being under the impression that the goods are not being imported for the purpose of the customs.





No 25 of 1915.

CONFIDENTIAL

148

Political Agency,

Kuwait.

From

Lt-Colonel W G Gray, I.A.,

Political Agent, Kuwait.

To

The Honourable the Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf, Bushire.

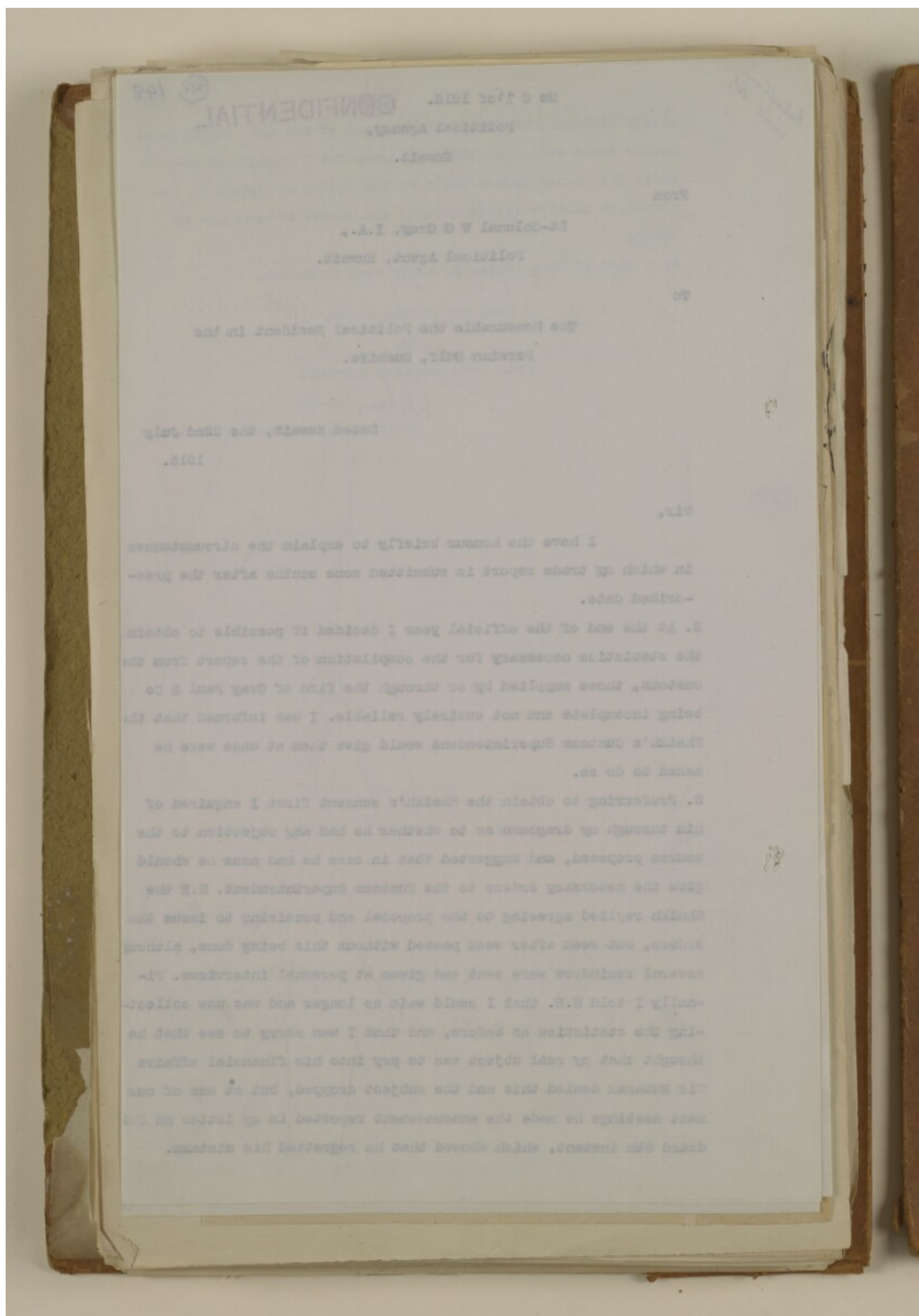
Dated Kuwait, the 28nd July
1915.

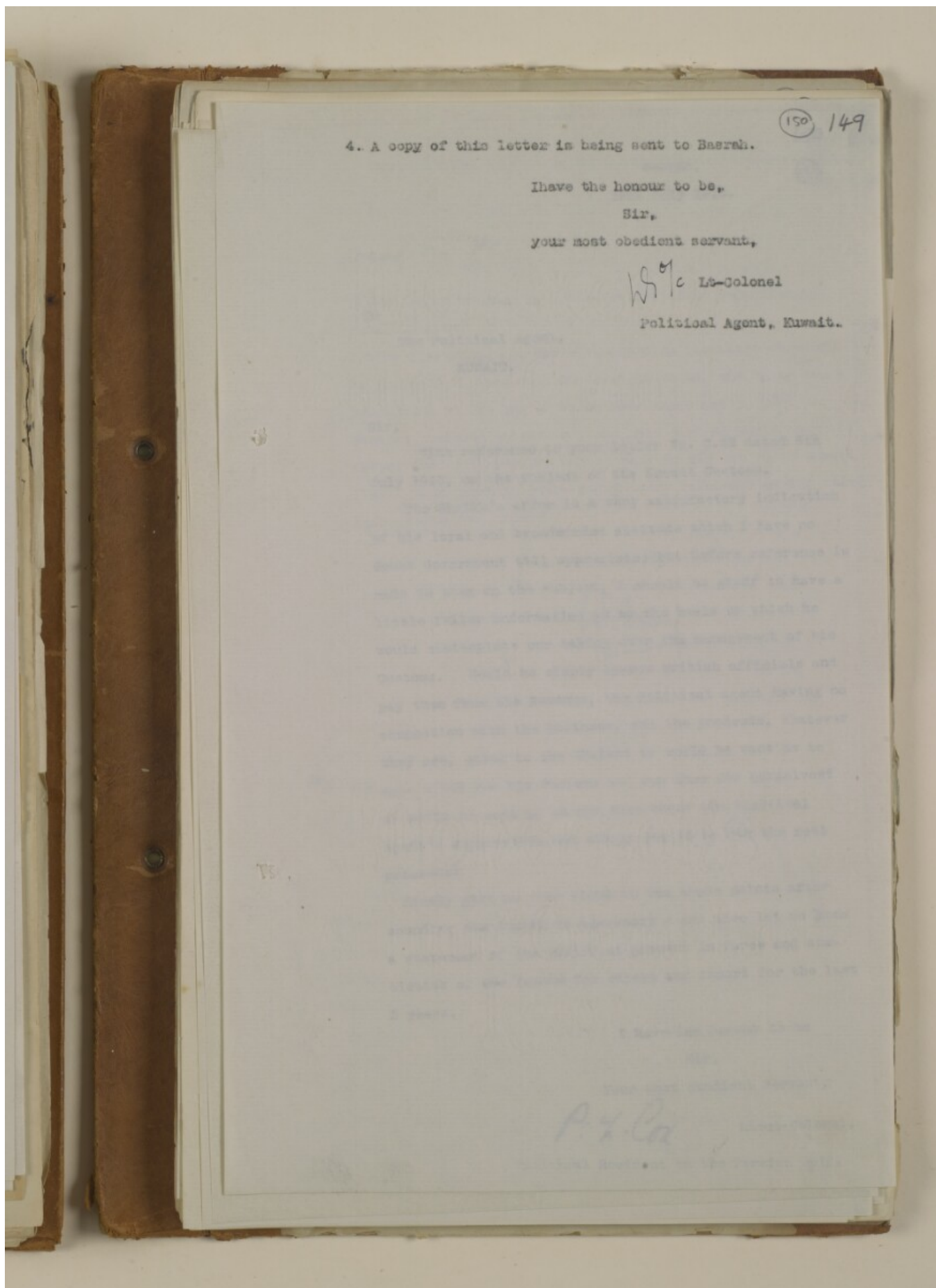
Sir,

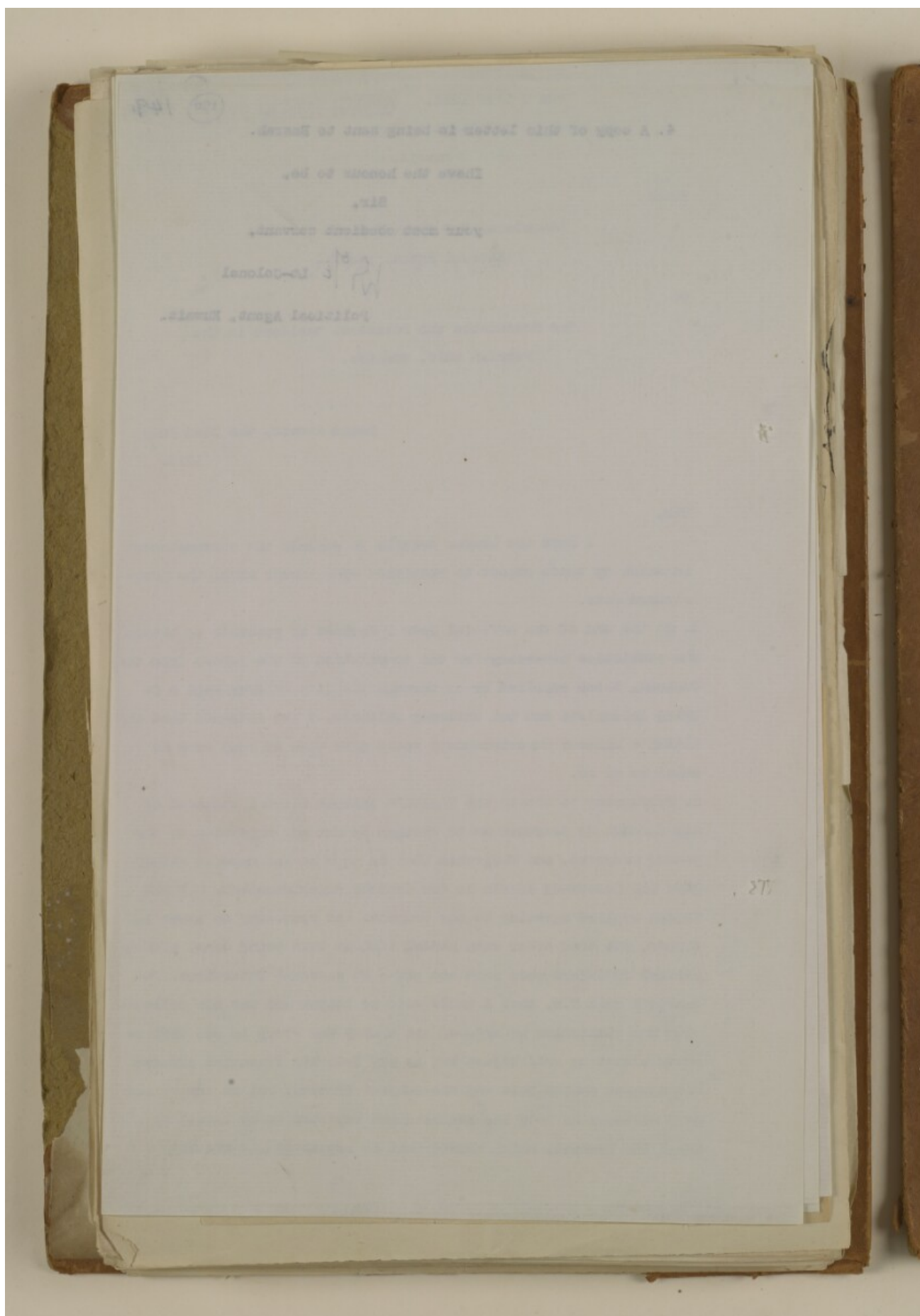
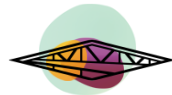
I have the honour briefly to explain the circumstances in which my trade report is submitted some months after the prescribed date.

2. At the end of the official year I decided if possible to obtain the statistics necessary for the compilation of the report from the customs, those supplied by or through the firm of Gray Paul & Co being incomplete and not entirely reliable. I was informed that the Sheikh's Customs Superintendent would give them at once were he asked to do so.

3. Preferring to obtain the Sheikh's consent first I enquired of him through my dragoman as to whether he had any objection to the course proposed, and suggested that in case he had none he should give the necessary orders to the Customs Superintendent. H.E. the Sheikh replied agreeing to the proposal and promising to issue the orders, but week after week passed without this being done, although several reminders were sent and given at personal interviews. Finally I told H.E. that I could wait no longer and was now collecting the statistics as before, and that I was sorry to see that he thought that my real object was to pry into his financial affairs. Sir Mubarak denied this and the subject dropped, but at one of our next meetings he made the announcement reported in my letter No 25 dated 6th instant, which showed that he regretted his mistake.









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Demi-official letter to Sir P. Cox dated 15th August 1915

Basrah,

15th July 1915.

Dear Sir P.C.

Please refer to your letter dated 13th July regarding the
To
Kuwait Customs.

I have The Political Agent, concerning the basis on which
he proposes KUWAIT.
proposed to him the three offers suggested by you.

Mr Sir, I have read them attentively and said that he would talk the
matter over.

With reference to your letter No. C.22 dated 6th
July 1915, on the subject of the Kuwait Customs.

The Shaikh's offer is a very satisfactory indication
of his loyal and broadminded attitude which I have no
doubt Government will appreciate; but before reference is
made to them on the subject, I should be glad to have a
little fuller information as to the basis on which he
would contemplate our taking over the management of his
Customs. Would he simply borrow British officials and
pay them from the Revenue, the Political Agent having no
connection with the business, and the proceeds, whatever
they are, going to the Shaikh? or would he want us to
make a bid for his Customs and run them for ourselves?
or would he want us to run them under the Political
Agent's supervision and simply pay in to him the nett
proceeds?

Kindly give me your views on the above points after
sounding the Shaikh if necessary - and also let me have
a statement of the Tariff at present in force and sta-
tistics of the income for export and import for the last
5 years.

I have the honour to be

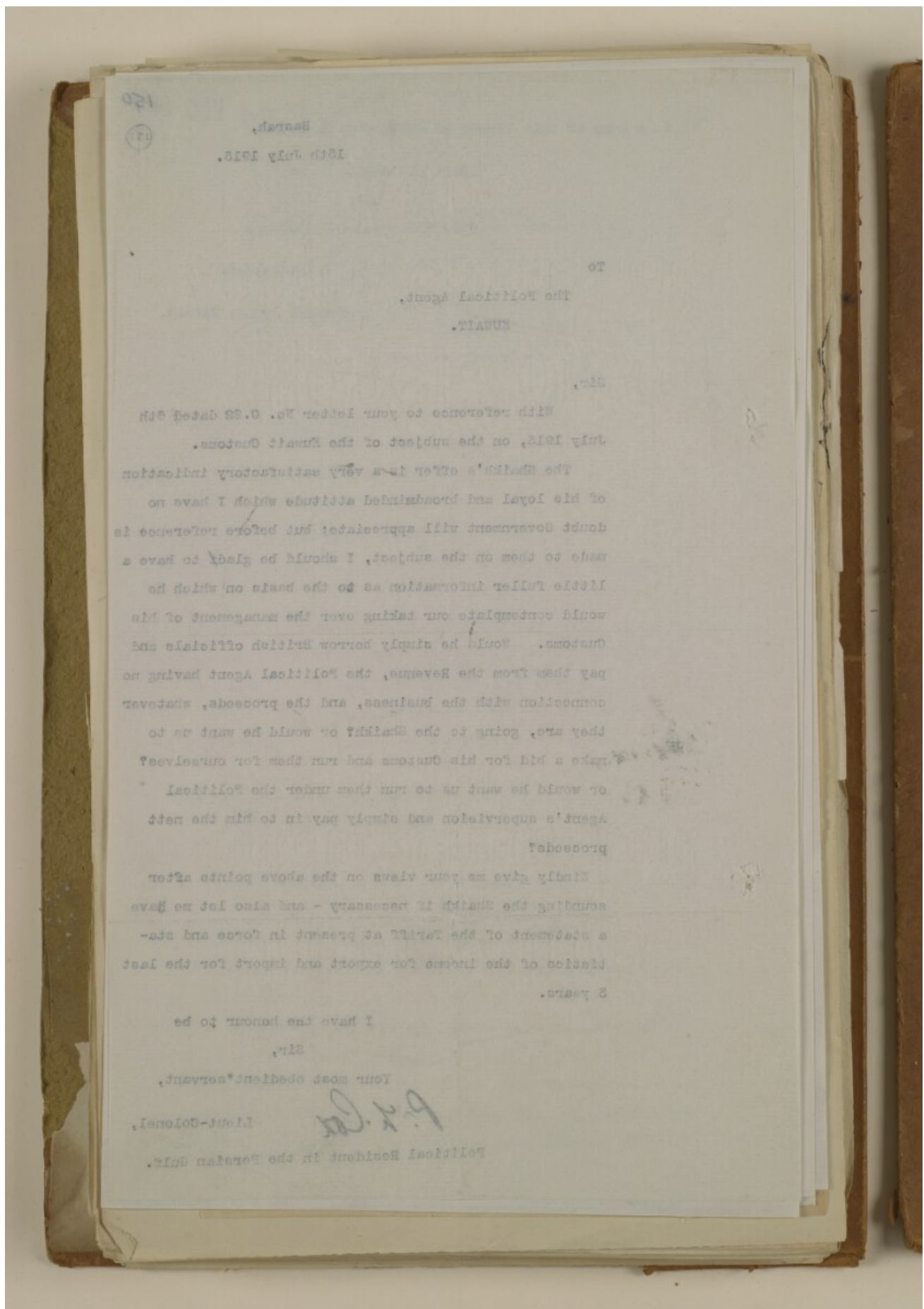
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. H. Cox

Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.





Demi-official letter to Sir P. Cox dated 25th August 1919. ¹⁵¹

(152)

Dear Sir P.

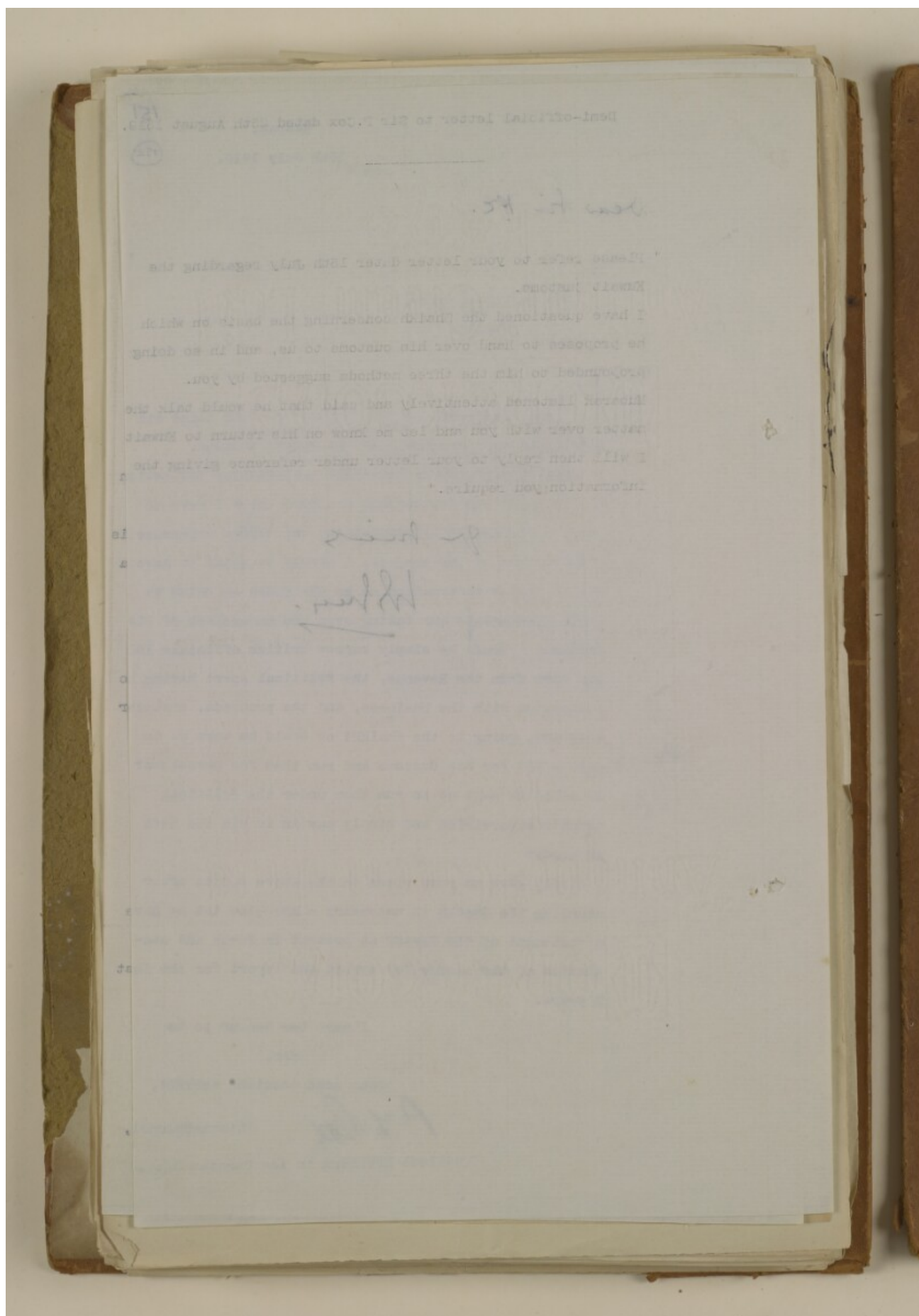
" Please refer to your letter dated 15th July regarding the Kuwait Customs.

I have questioned the Shaikh concerning the basis on which he proposes to hand over his customs to us, and in so doing propounded to him the three methods suggested by you.

Mubarak listened attentively and said that he would talk the matter over with you and let me know on his return to Kuwait. I will then reply to your letter under reference giving the information you require."

Yr. hms

W. H. H.





153 152

Copy of a letter dated 14th September 1915, from the Hon'ble Lieut-Colonel Sir P.Z.Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Hon'ble Mr. A.H.Grant, C.S.I. C.I.E., I.C.S. Foreign Secretary to the Government of India Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

I have the honour to report that Sir Mubarak us Subah, Shaikh of Kuwait, desires me to submit the following for the wise consideration of the Government of India.

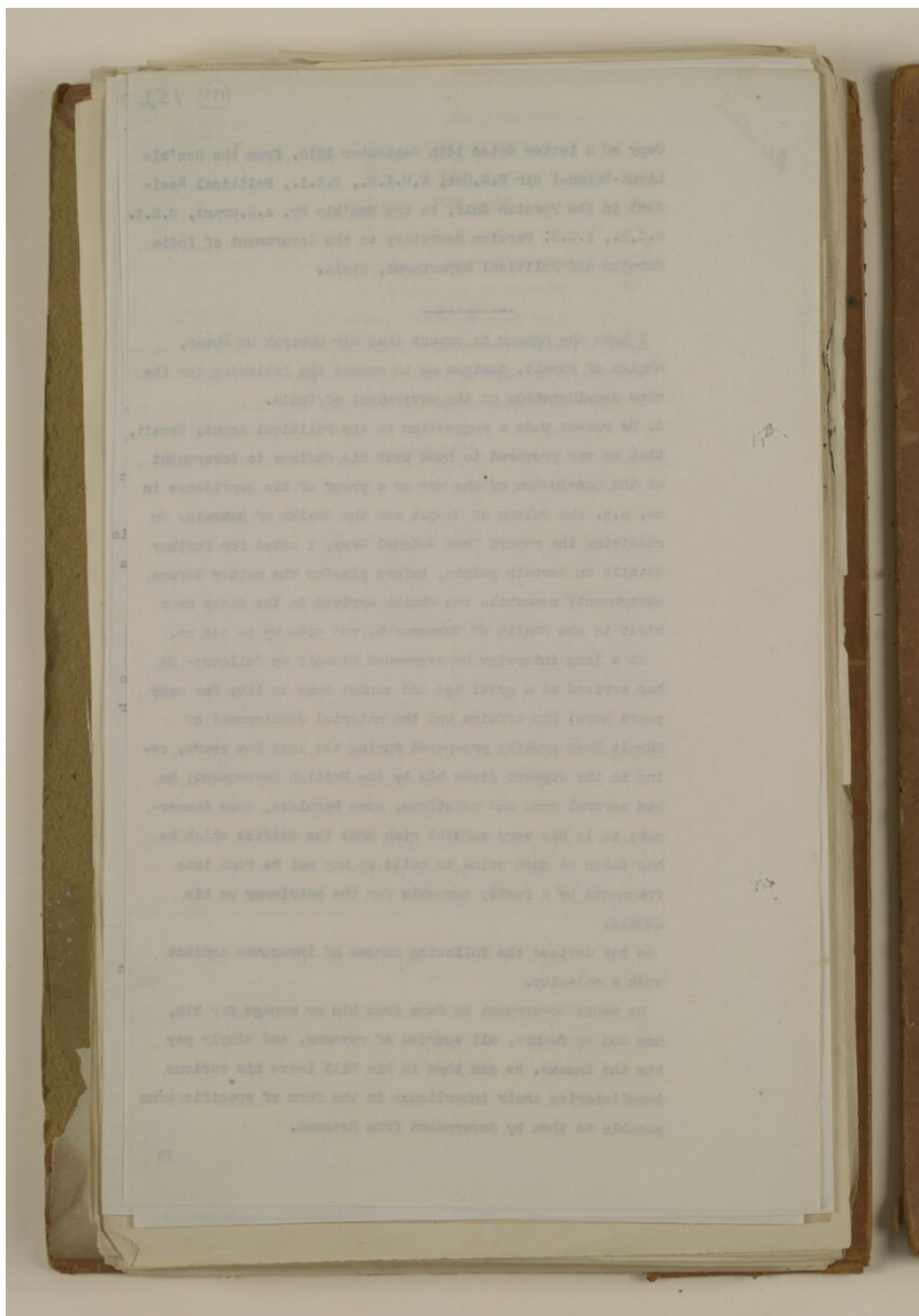
2. He recent made a suggestion to the Political Agent, Kuwait, that he was prepared to hand over his Customs to Government at the conclusion of the war as a proof of his confidence in us, e.g. the Sultan of Masqat and the Shaikh of Bahrain. On receiving the report from Colonel Grey, I asked for further details on certain points, before placing the matter before Government; meanwhile the Shaikh arrived in the River on a visit to the Shaikh of Muhammarah, and came up to see me.

At a long interview he expressed himself as follows:- He has arrived at a great age and cannot hope to live for many years more; his affairs and the material development of Kuwait have greatly prospered during the last few years, owing to the support given him by the British Government; he has several sons and relations, some harmless, some dangerous; it is his very earnest wish that the edifice which he has taken so much pains to build up may not be rent into fragments by a family scramble for the patrimony on his demise.

He has devised the following Scheme of insurance against such a calamity.

He wants Government to farm from him or manage for him, now and in future, all sources of revenue, and simply pay him the income. He can then in his Will leave his various beneficiaries their inheritance in the form of specific sums payable to them by Government from Revenue.

It





154 153

It is an ingenious and wise Scheme worthy of his fine old character, and I very much hope that, in view of his unwavering friendship with us and his strong and progressive rule, the Government of India will vouchsafe a response which will not disappoint him.

It is difficult to go into matters in detail with him until Government have expressed their willingness in principle to find a basis for meeting his wishes, and I therefore beg that the Government of India will be pleased to intimate to me their reply on this point as soon as practicable.

Will you please refer ~~the~~ letter to Govt. of India dated 18th September on the subject of Sir Subbarao's scheme

Copy:- settlement of his financial affairs.

C.S.D. Bushire. well lately and I fear the possibility of

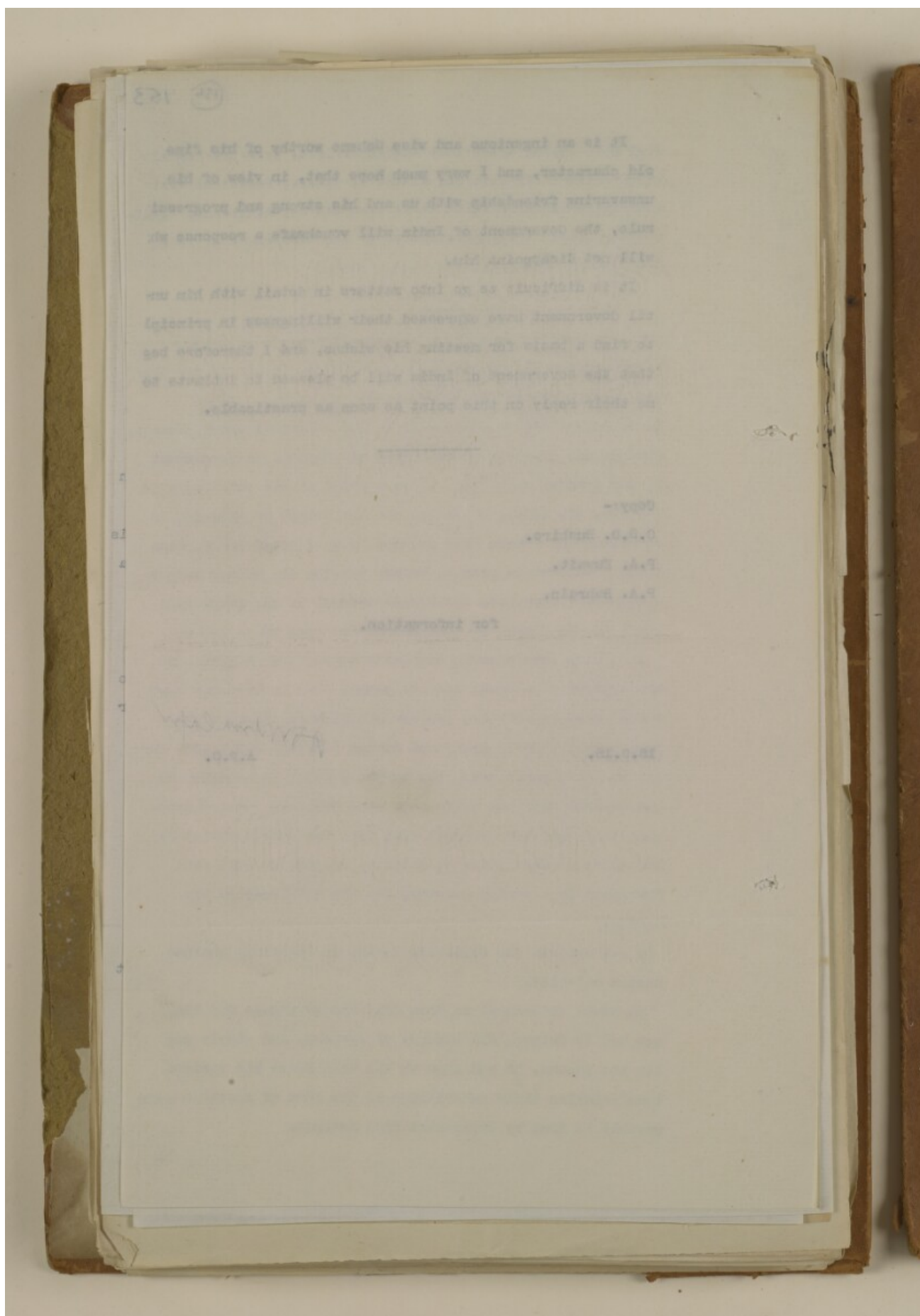
P.A. Kuwait. before the arrangement which he so strongly

P.A. Bahrain. completed.

Would it be possible for information. of India and ask for an early reply?

15.9.15.

A.P.O.





(155) 154

Telegram to Basrah and Baghdad
dated 29th November 1915, dated
Confidential.

MEMORANDUM. No. C 38.

To D.C.P.O., Basrah.

Dated KUWAIT,

November 26th, 1915.

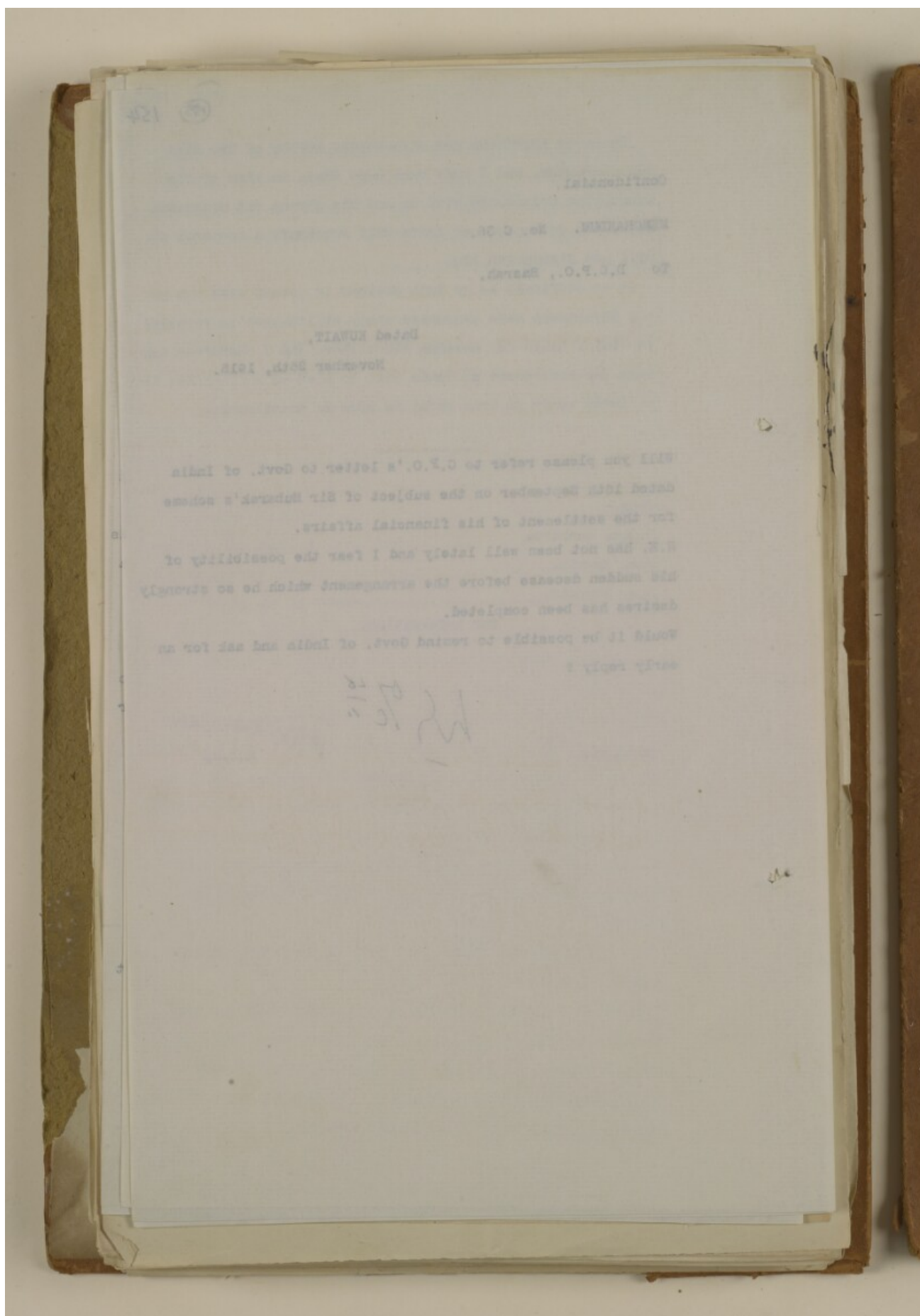
Will you please refer to C.P.O.'s letter to Govt. of India dated 16th September on the subject of Sir Mubarak's scheme for the settlement of his financial affairs.

H.E. has not been well lately and I fear the possibility of his sudden decease before the arrangement which he so strongly desires has been completed.

Would it be possible to remind Govt. of India and ask for an early reply?

W. G. C. ²⁶/₁₁

Telegrams from Sir Mubarak Khan and Mubarak Khan have also sent with this to the Kuwait Council.





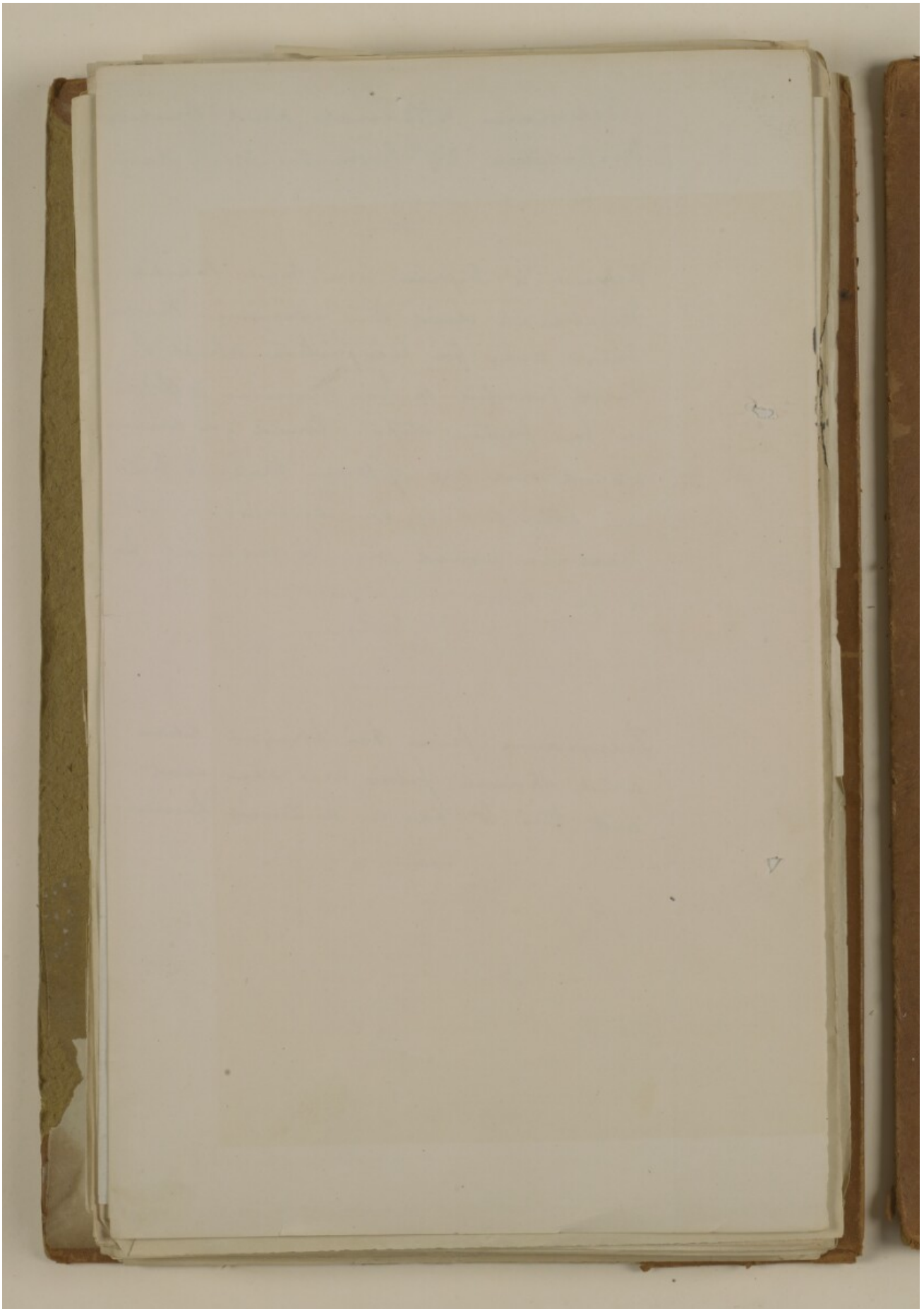
(156) 155

Telegram to Basrah and Bushra
despatched 29th November 1915, dated
28th idem.

Regret to inform you that Shaikh
Mubarak died this evening. Shaikh
Jabir asks for recognition which I
have granted on his promise to follow
in his father's steps. Could you arrange
to send over one of His Highness's ships to help
in establishing his succession. His
presence would only be required for
a few days.

Grey.

Telegrams from Sir Khayal Khan
and Shaikh Jabir were also sent
with this to Fao in a Kuwait launch.





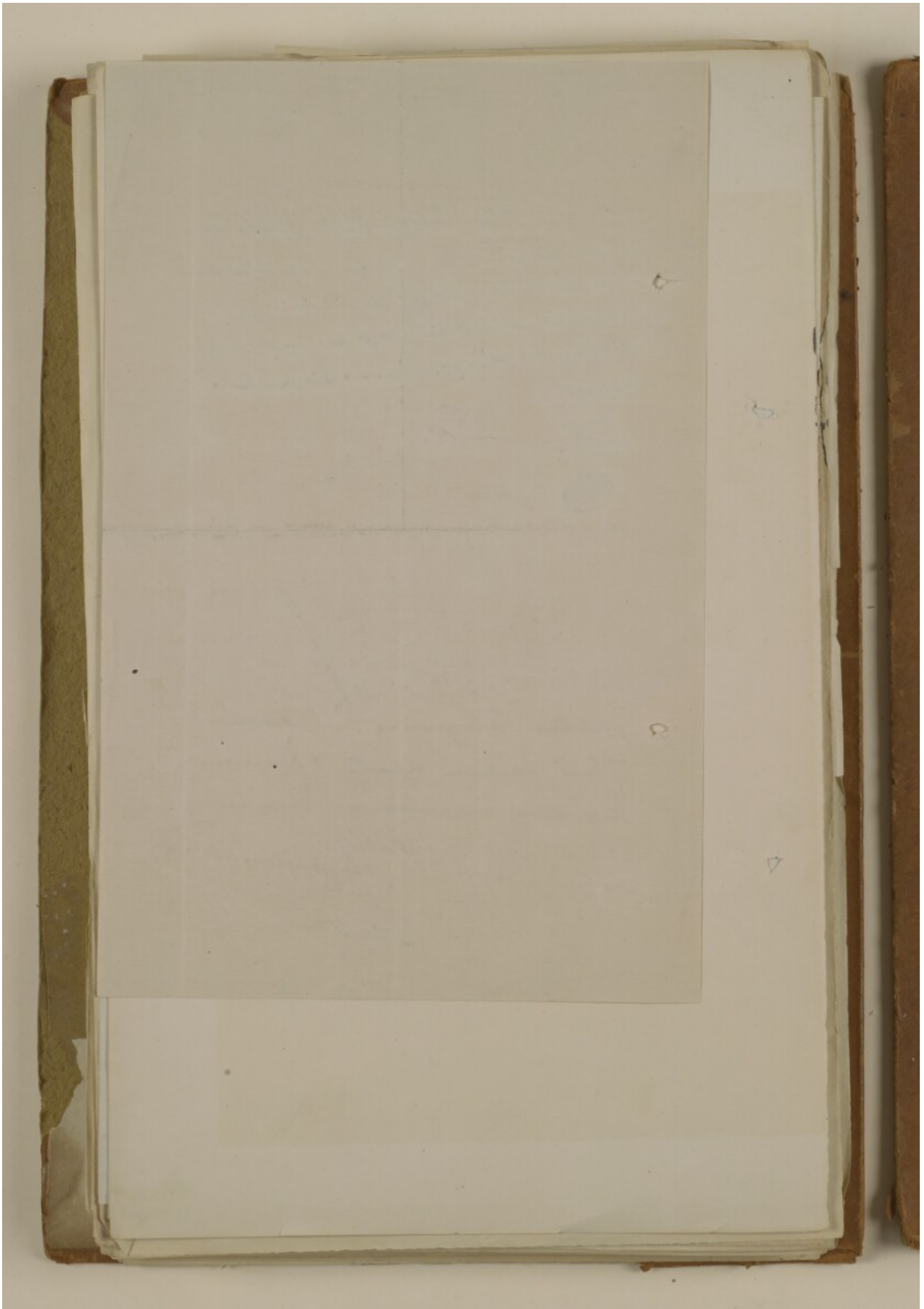
156

حقة ذنبا الشؤرا والجلال سريري كالكس المغنم
 العوال الشيخ مبارك توفي ليلة ١١ محرم ١٢٤٤ هـ وقد تقلدت امور الحامية لاني
 ولي عهد من جانب الدولة الغنية المظلم وها انا واقف ومتصدى اليوم
 الدولة البدييه وعلى كل حال انشاء الله شاهد منا الطاء والخلص
 واثنا بملك منكم مستعدين لاجميع خدمتكم نلتس وقوع انظاركم
 ولي عهد حاكم
 الكويت
 جابر مبارك



Five lines
 Jaber's telegram. Informing
 of his father's death & announces
 his own succession promising
 obedience & fidelity

W²⁹
 11





157

No C 39 of 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL

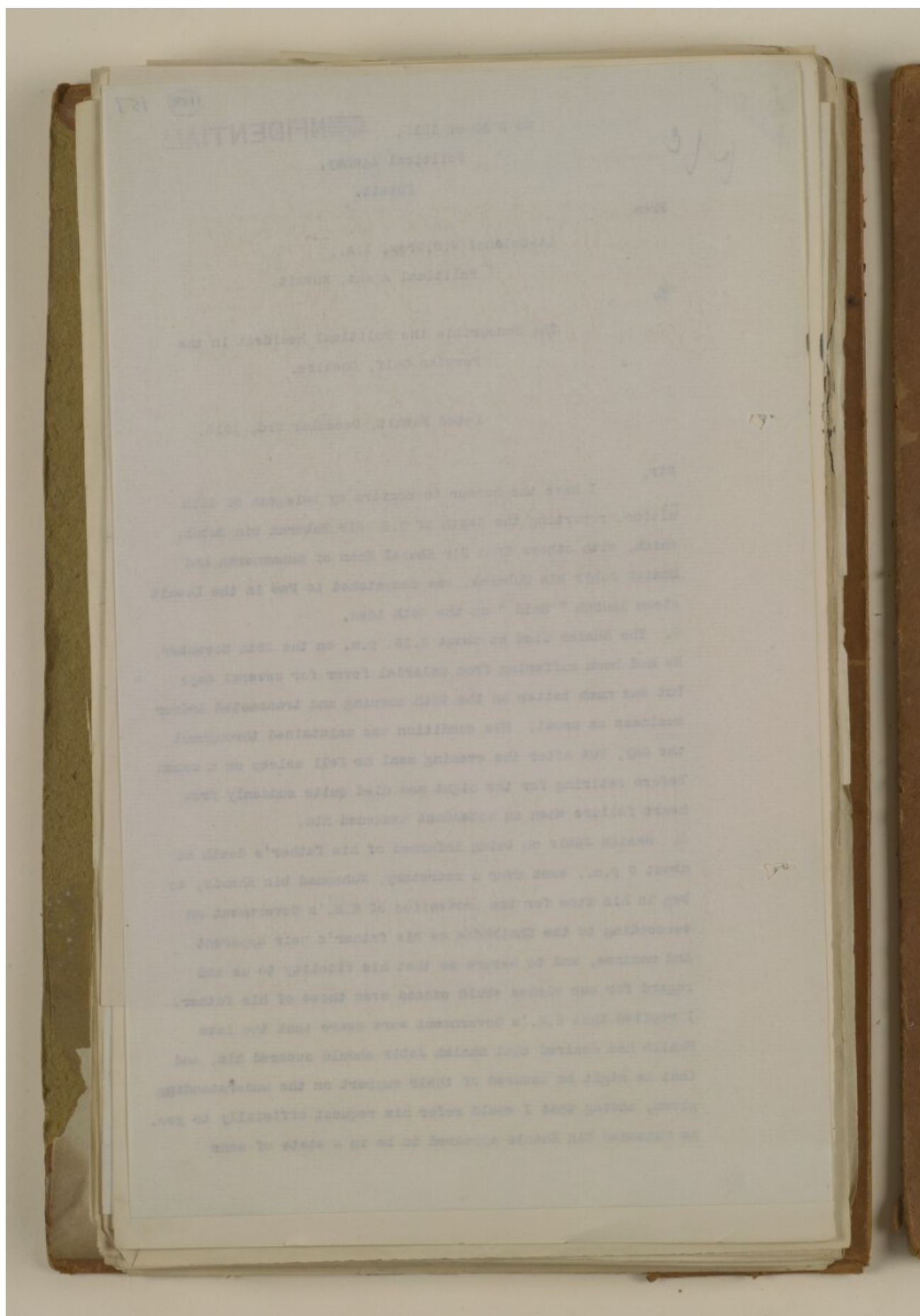
Political Agency, my fear of opposition to his accession and in the negative but, From Lt-Colonel W.O. Grey, I.A., and his friends, Political Agent, Kuwait. To The Honourable the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire. Dated Kuwait, December 3rd, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm my telegram of 28th ultimo. reporting the death of H.E. Sir Mubarak bin Subah, which, with others from Sir Khazal Khan of Muhammerah and Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak, was despatched to Fao in the Kuwait steam launch " Said " on the 29th idem.

2. The Shaikh died at about 8.15 p.m. on the 28th November. He had been suffering from malarial fever for several days but was much better on the 28th morning and transacted indoor business as usual. His condition was maintained throughout the day, but after the evening meal he fell asleep on a couch before retiring for the night and died quite suddenly from heart failure when an attendant awakened him.

3. Shaikh Jabir on being informed of his father's death at about 9 p.m., sent over a secretary, Muhammad bin Khamis, to beg in his name for the protection of H.M.'s Government on succeeding to the Shaikdom as his father's heir apparent and nominee, and to assure me that his fidelity to us and regard for our wishes would exceed even those of his father. I replied that H.M.'s Government were aware that the late Shaikh had desired that Shaikh Jabir should succeed him, and that he might be assured of their support on the understanding given, adding that I would refer his request officially to you. As Muhammad bin Khamis appeared to be in a state of some





159 158

trepidation I asked him whether Jabir had any fear of opposition to his succession and he replied in the negative; but, in view of the general opinion in Kuwait that there might be trouble from Sir Mubarak's second son Salim and his friends, I thought it best to include in my telegram a request for the presence of one of His Majesty's ships for a few days until Shaikh Jabir had consolidated his position, Shaikh Salim, who was out fighting the Ajman tribe as already reported, has not yet returned to Kuwait, and meanwhile Jabir, with the help of Sir Khazal Khan and myself, has taken up the position of ruler. It is now thought that Salim will, however unwillingly, recognise his brother as Shaikh on return, any opportunity he may have had for raising opposition having passed, and at the time of writing all is quiet. Salim is expected to arrive in Kuwait any day, and a further report will be submitted in due course.

4. A copy of this letter is being sent to Basrah.

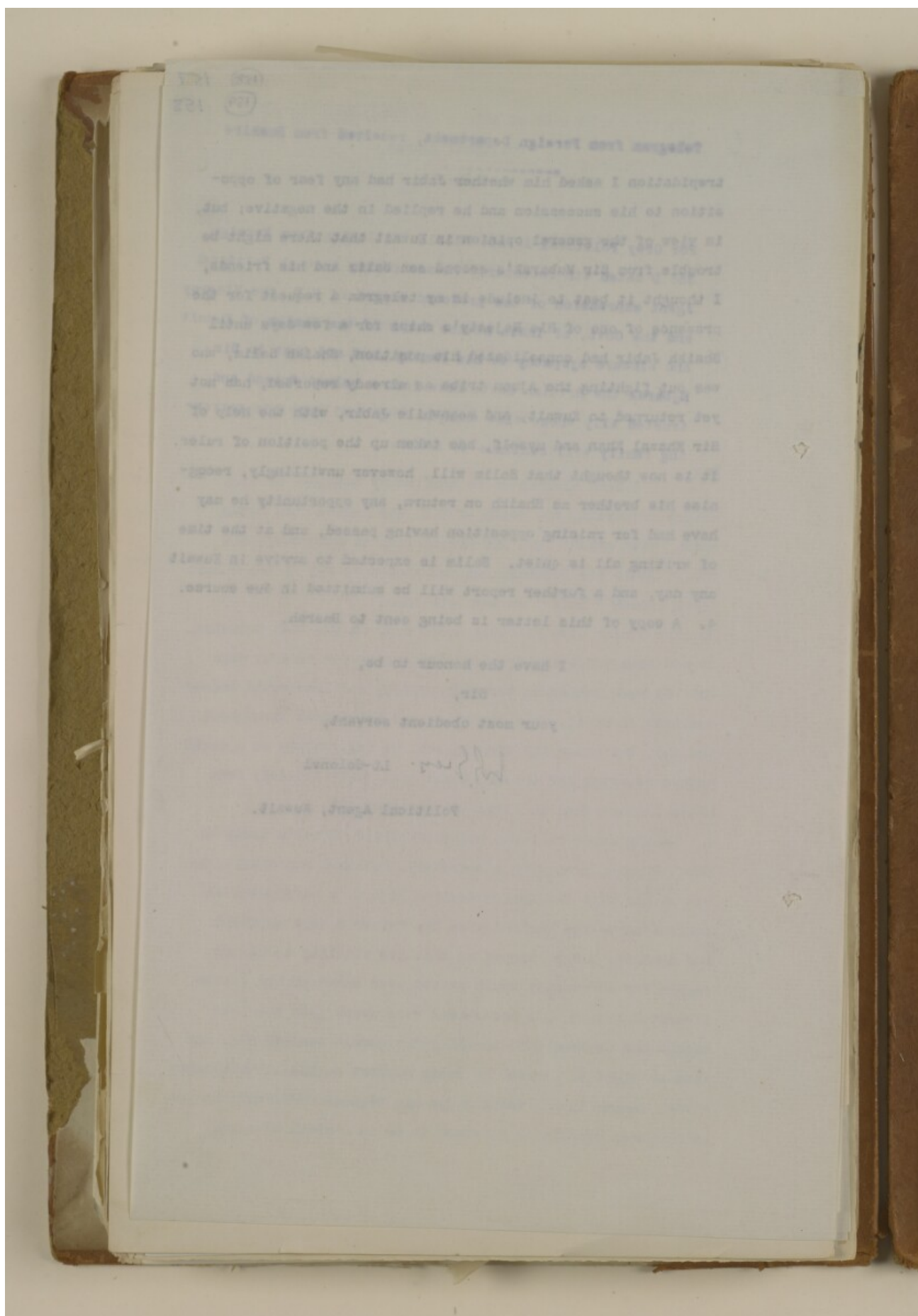
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

W. S. S. Lt-Colonel

Political Agent, Kuwait.





Telegram from Foreign Department, received from Bushire

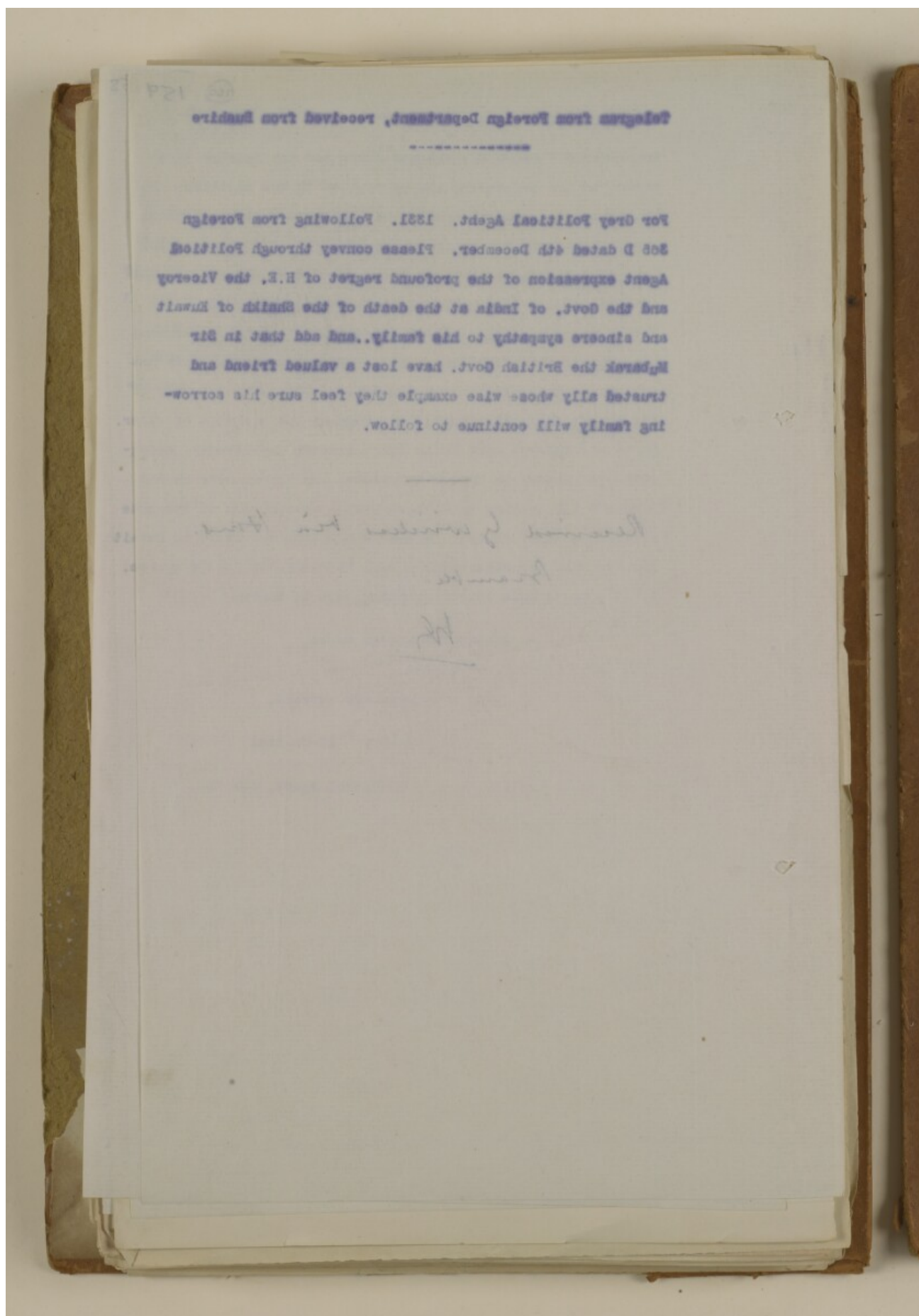
For Grey Political Agent. 1331. Following from Foreign 365 D dated 4th December. Please convey through Political Agent expression of the profound regret of H.E. the Viceroy and the Govt. of India at the death of the Shaikh of Kuwait and sincere sympathy to his family..and add that in Sir Mubarak the British Govt. have lost a valued friend and trusted ally whose wise example they feel sure his sorrowing family will continue to follow.

Received by wireless via Hms.

Bramble.

W

W T.





Telegram from Foreign Department, received from (161) 160

No C 41 of 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL

him. A complete agreement Political Agency, and through the
terms have not yet come to my Kuwait. The brothers talked.

From Sir Khazal, to return them to waiting for my
counter-signature. Lt-Colonel W.G.Grey, I.A. suggested his brother
as Shaikh and to serve Political Agent, Kuwait. Sir Khazal
To Sir Khazal Khazal, his family, and was sent to Sir

3. On the 5th inst. The Honourable the Political Resident in the
and I visited Shaikh bin Persian Gulf, Bushire. Sir Khazal,
brother of the late Shaikh. He was received with great
cordiality by both, and Dated Kuwait, December 11th, 1916.

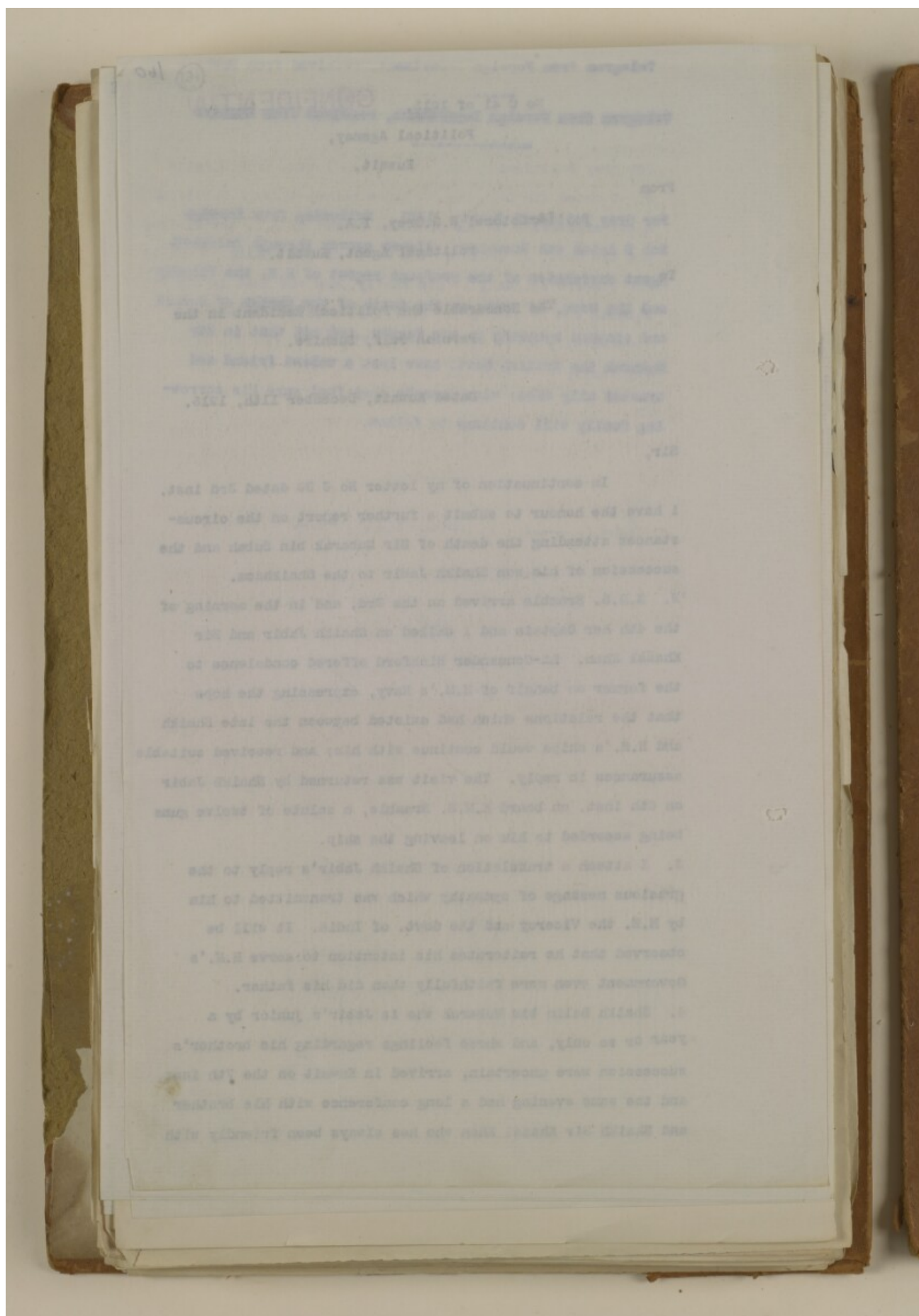
4. The Government would continue to be attached to Kuwait
Sir, would under Shaikh Jabir as it had been under his

father. In continuation of my letter No C 39 dated 3rd inst.
I have the honour to submit a further report on the circum-
stances attending the death of Sir Mubarak bin Subah and the
succession of his son Shaikh Jabir to the Shaikhdom.

2. H.M.S. Bramble arrived on the 3rd, and in the morning of
the 4th her Captain and I called on Shaikh Jabir and Sir
Khazal Khan. Lt-Commander Bickford offered condolence to
the former on behalf of H.M.'s Navy, expressing the hope
that the relations which had existed between the late Shaikh
and H.M.'s ships would continue with him; and received suitable
assurances in reply. The visit was returned by Shaikh Jabir
on 6th inst. on board H.M.S. Bramble, a salute of twelve guns
being accorded to him on leaving the ship.

3. I attach a translation of Shaikh Jabir's reply to the
gracious message of sympathy which was transmitted to him
by H.E. the Viceroy and the Govt. of India. It will be
observed that he reiterates his intention to serve H.M.'s
Government even more faithfully than did his father.

4. Shaikh Salim bin Mubarak who is Jabir's junior by a
year or so only, and whose feelings regarding his brother's
succession were uncertain, arrived in Kuwait on the 7th inst,
and the same evening had a long conference with his brother
and Shaikh Sir Khazal Khan who has always been friendly with





(62) 161

Translation of a letter from Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak to the
him. A complete agreement was arrived at, and though the
terms have not yet come to my knowledge, the brothers intend,
according to Sir Khazal, to reduce them to writing for my
counter-signature. Salim has agreed to recognise his brother
as Shaikh and to serve him faithfully as such. Sir Khazal
leaves Kuwait tomorrow.

5. On the evening of the 8th inst. Lt-Commander Bickford
and I visited Shaikhs Salim bin Mubarak and Jabir bin Subah,
brother of the late Shaikh. We were received with great
cordiality by both, and each expressed the hope that the
favour of Government would continue to be extended to Kuwait
and its people under Shaikh Jabir as it had been under his
father.

6. I am grateful to Sir Khazal Khan for loyal assistance in
effecting the accession of Shaikh Jabir, and to H.M.S. Bramble
for her presence and support at this critical time. Mullah
Salih the chief secretary to the late Shaikh who continues to
act in that capacity with Shaikh Jabir, is heart and soul with
us and has rendered yeoman service.

7. I trust that the steps taken will meet with your approval
and with that of the Govt. of India. It is necessary in these
cases to recognise the successor without delay in order to
prevent disturbance, and we now await the favour of a more
formal recognition of Shaikh Jabir should that be considered
necessary.

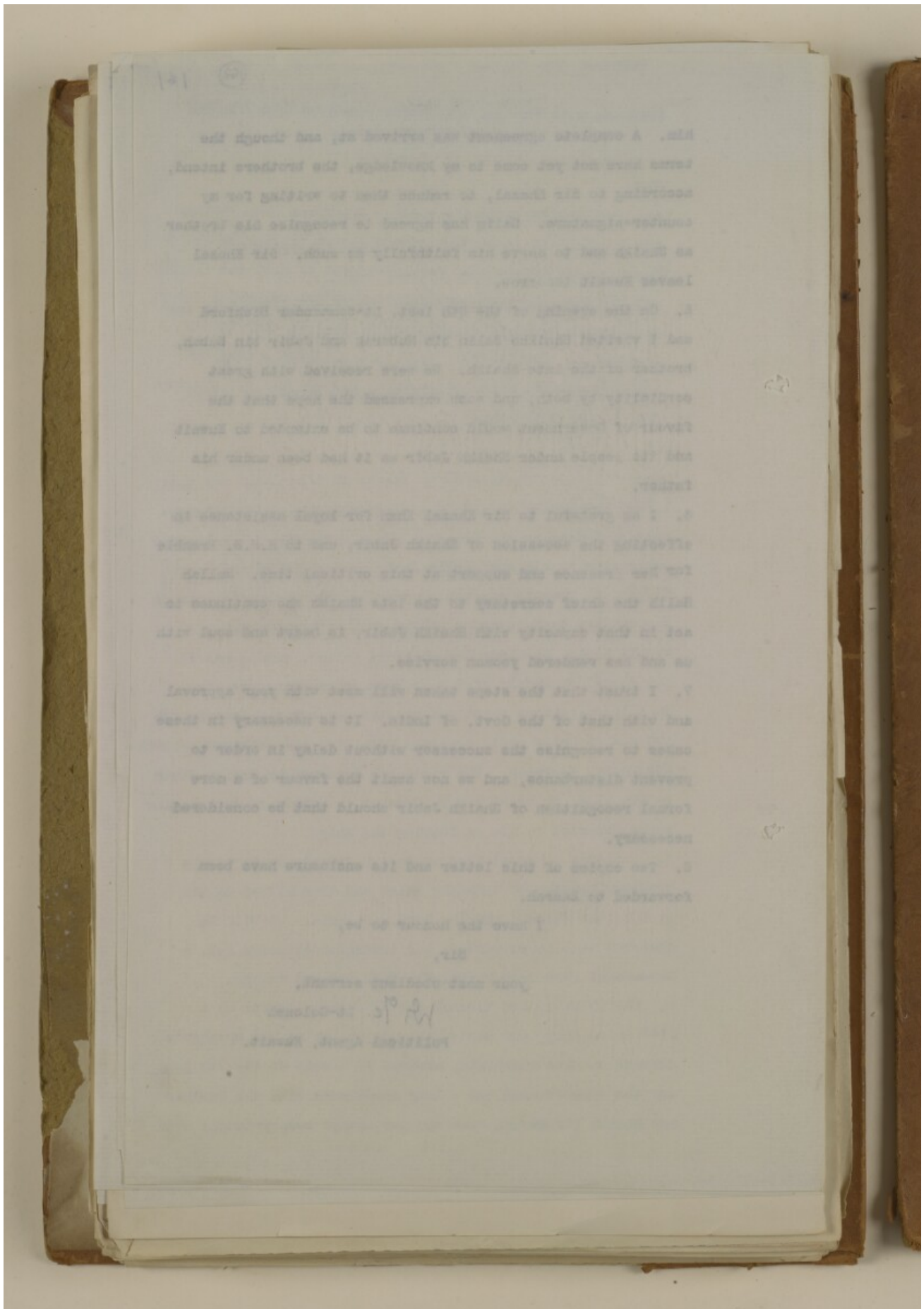
8. Two copies of this letter and its enclosure have been
forwarded to Basrah.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

W H 9c. Lt-Colonel
Political Agent, Kuwait.



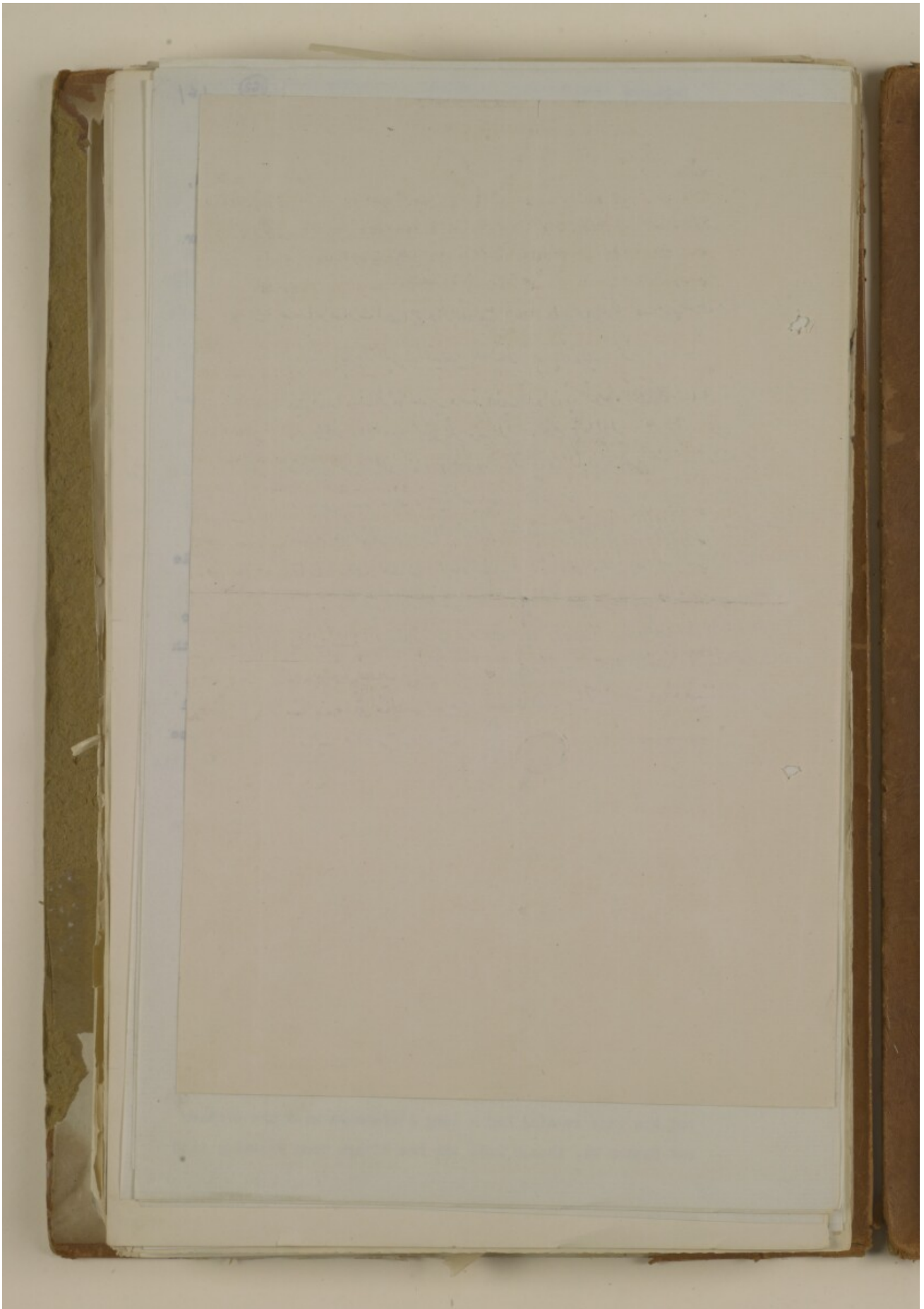


163 162

من جابر المبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الاحقة عالي الجاه اللهم الحبيب العزيز كبريل وكن كبري بولشك
اجنت الدولة البرية القيصية الانكليزية بالكويت دلم محروسا
غيا فنفاد خاطر لم العزيز دتم بجيد هوان يد العود داخدة كتابكم المورخ ١٢٤٤
وبه تأخرون ورد لخطبكم رسالة من حضرة جلالة حاكم الهند ورجال الدولة الهندية
متضمنة مزيد الأسف والدوره بوفاة الوالد المصمم الشيخ مبارك برده منقوه
وجعل الجنة ماواه فينا حب هذا شأن الدنيا كل حي ميت وانني اشكر عواطف
جلالة حاكم الهند ورجال الدولة ومحبتهم الخالصه بما تفضلوه من التفيزه السلي
فاقابل هذا اللطف بمزيد الشكر والسناء والدعاء بدوام الفز والبقاء للدولة
البرية وارجو ان تعرضون شكري الصميمه وخلوصي لحاكم الهند ورجال الدولة
واننا نشاء ان ملازمين روابط المحبة والصدق وسالكين على ما كان عليه الوالد
المصمم وما قفين بالظاهر لادامر الدولة البرية وعلى كل حال انشاء ان نشاهدون
من الخدمة الخالصه ازيد محاسن هذا والجنان تقدم ادعينا العوديه لخطبكم
العاليه ودتم محروسين ١٢٤٤
١٢٤٩

Translation below.

h8





164r 163

Translation of a letter from Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak to the
Political Agent, Kuwait, dated 29th Muharram 1334,
(7th December 1915.)

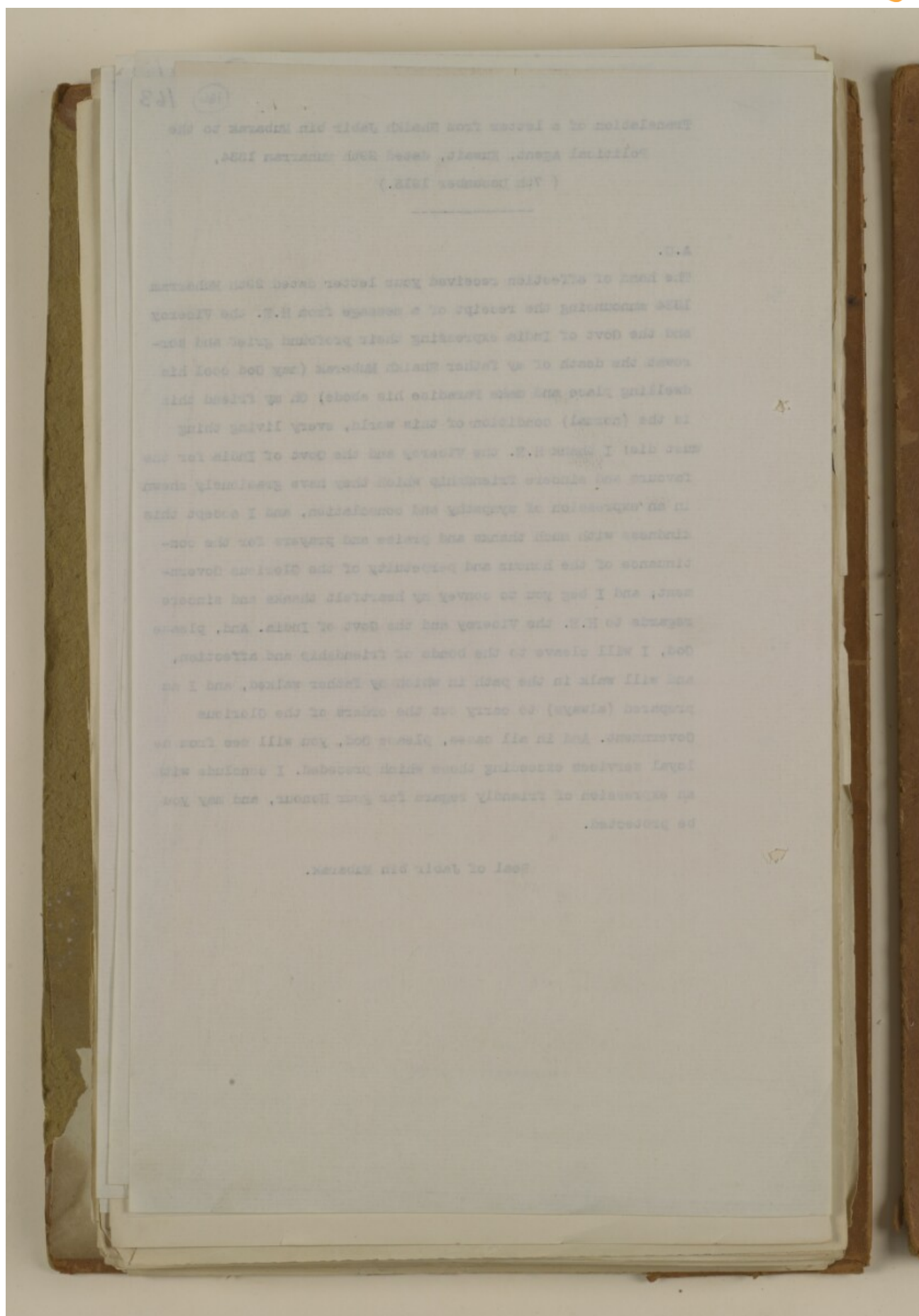
A.C.

The hand of affection received your letter dated 29th Muharram 1334 announcing the receipt of a message from H.E. the Viceroy and the Govt of India expressing their profound grief and sorrow at the death of my father Shaikh Mubarak (may God cool his dwelling place and make Paradise his abode) Oh my friend this is the (normal) condition of this world, every living thing must die! I thank H.E. the Viceroy and the Govt of India for the favours and sincere friendship which they have graciously shewn in an expression of sympathy and consolation, and I accept this kindness with much thanks and praise and prayers for the continuance of the honour and perpetuity of the Glorious Government; and I beg you to convey my heartfelt thanks and sincere regards to H.E. the Viceroy and the Govt of India. And, please God, I will cleave to the bonds of friendship and affection, and will walk in the path in which my father walked, and I am prepared (always) to carry out the orders of the Glorious Government. And in all cases, please God, you will see from me loyal services exceeding those which preceded. I conclude with an expression of friendly regard for your Honour, and may you be protected.

Seal of Jabir bin Mubarak.

At a personal interview on the 14th inst. I mentioned the matter to Shaikh Jabir, without however informing him that the war had reached in his letters upon Sir Mubarak's death and possible complications and the Shaikh at once went for Ali. He arrived after I had left the police, but it appears that Shaikh Jabir first bowed his head and then struck his forehead with a hand, his stick being handy, saying at the same time that he would not have any English letters written from here and that all must leave

W. H.





165 / 64

No C 45 of 1915.

CONFIDENTIAL

his territories within the Political Agency,

4. Early the next morning Ali was in Kuwait.

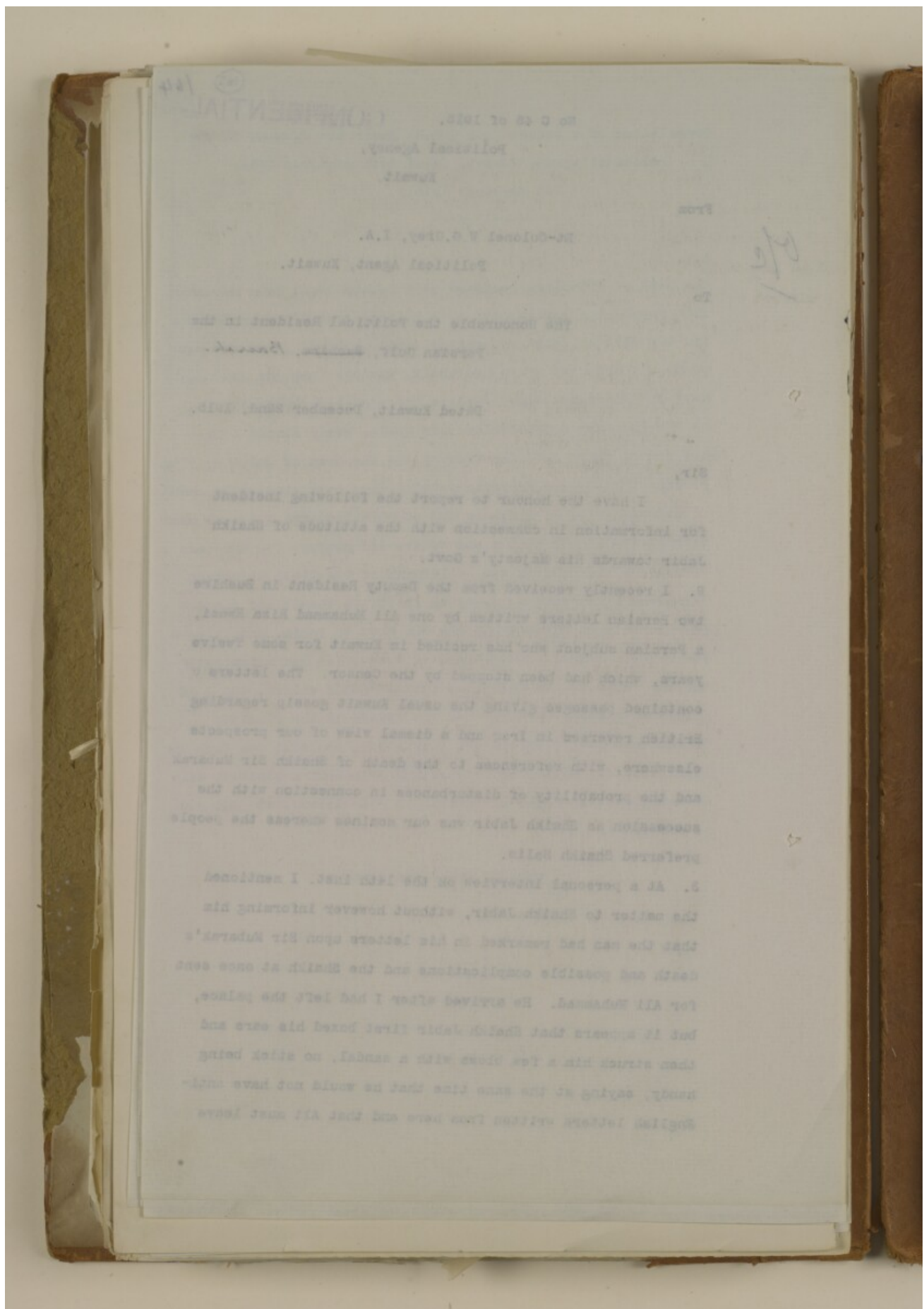
From information and that he might be allowed to remain in

Kuwait. I told Lt-Colonel W.G. Grey, I.A. to Shaikh Jabir
that which would have made Political Agent, Kuwait.

To that end, and consented to interview the Ali after ex-
tracting a promise. The Honourable the Political Resident in the
subject of the war without Persian Gulf, Bushire, Basrah.
Early I asked Shaikh Jabir to allow Ali to remain in Kuwait
in Kuwait on the understanding Dated Kuwait, December 22nd, 1915.
in this manner, and he agreed.

Sir,
This incident was one of great value. Shaikh Jabir has
explained. I have the honour to report the following incident
for information in connection with the attitude of Shaikh
Jabir towards His Majesty's Govt.
2. I recently received from the Deputy Resident in Bushire
two Persian letters written by one Ali Muhammad Riza Ewazi,
a Persian subject who has resided in Kuwait for some Twelve
years, which had been stopped by the Censor. The letters
contained passages giving the usual Kuwait gossip regarding
British reverses in Iraq and a dismal view of our prospects
elsewhere, with references to the death of Shaikh Sir Mubarak
and the probability of disturbances in connection with the
succession as Shaikh Jabir was our nominee whereas the people
preferred Shaikh Salim.

3. At a personal interview on the 14th inst. I mentioned
the matter to Shaikh Jabir, without however informing him
that the man had remarked in his letters upon Sir Mubarak's
death and possible complications and the Shaikh at once sent
for Ali Muhammad. He arrived after I had left the palace,
but it appears that Shaikh Jabir first boxed his ears and
then struck him a few blows with a sandal, no stick being
handy, saying at the same time that he would not have anti-
English letters written from here and that Ali must leave





(166) 165

his territories within five days.

4. Early the next morning Ali Muhammad came to me begging for intercession and that he might be allowed to remain in Kuwait. I told him that I had not revealed to Shaikh Jabir that which would have made matters much more serious for him than they were, and consented to intercede for him after extracting a promise that he would not write again upon the subject of the war without shewing the letter to me. Accordingly I asked Shaikh Jabir to allow Ali Muhammad to remain in Kuwait on the understanding that he would not again offend in this manner, and he agreed.

5. The incident has been of great value. Shaikh Jabir has displayed his attitude towards the interests of His Majesty's Govt.; I have had the opportunity of shewing that he is prepared to be influenced by my representations; I have Ali Muhammad's remarks upon the domestic situation in Kuwait hanging over his head as a perpetual threat which will ensure his good behaviour; and Ali is allowed to remain here where he will do less mischief than elsewhere in the Persian Gulf supposing that he is a deliberate mischief-maker which I think is doubtful.

6. It may be observed that everyone here knows that letters are censored, and no secret has been divulged.

7. A copy of this letter is being sent to Bushire.

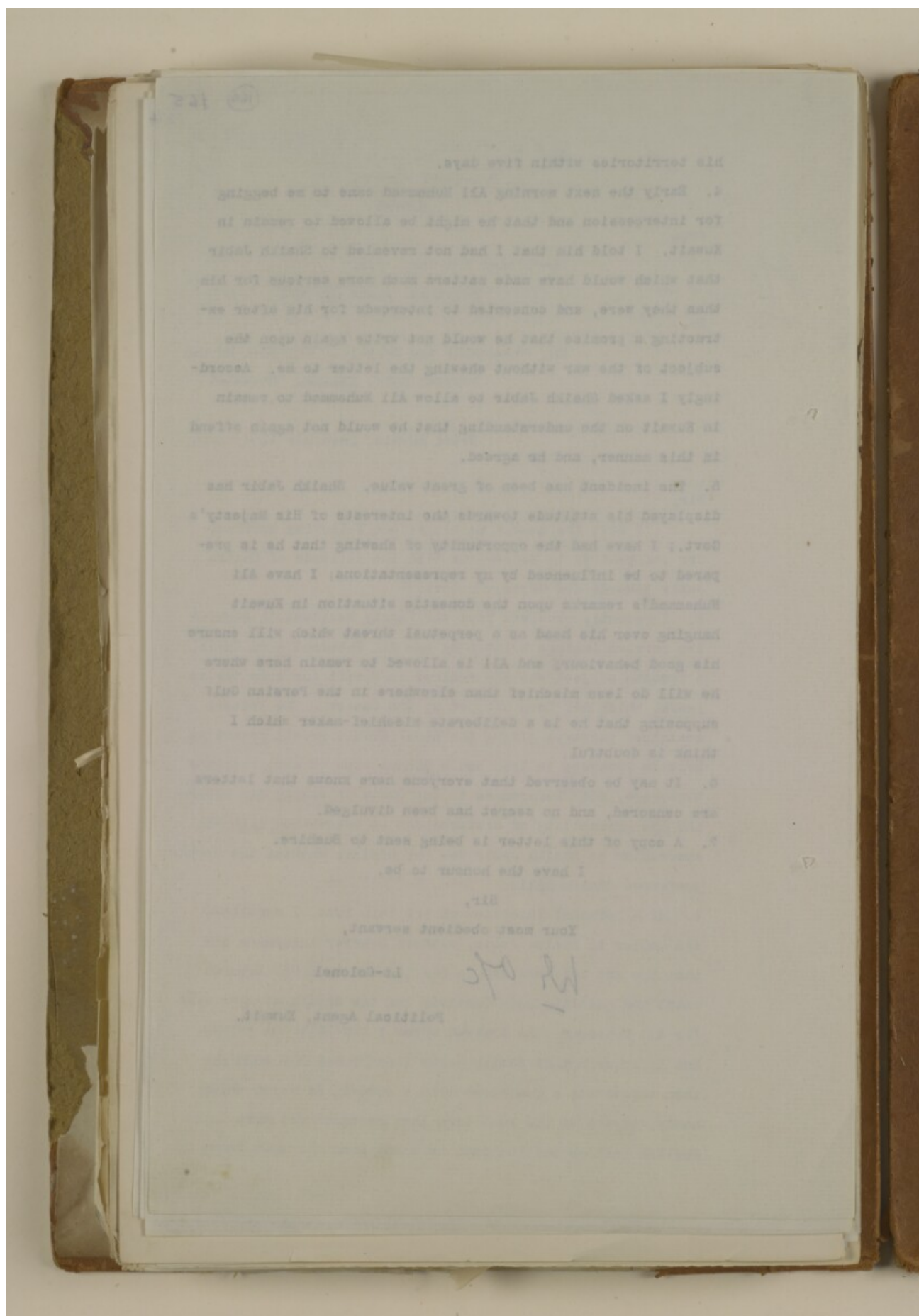
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt-Colonel

Political Agent, Kuwait.





(167) 166

Relation

No. 66 of 1915.
Chief Political Office, Busrah.
Dated 13th December 1915.

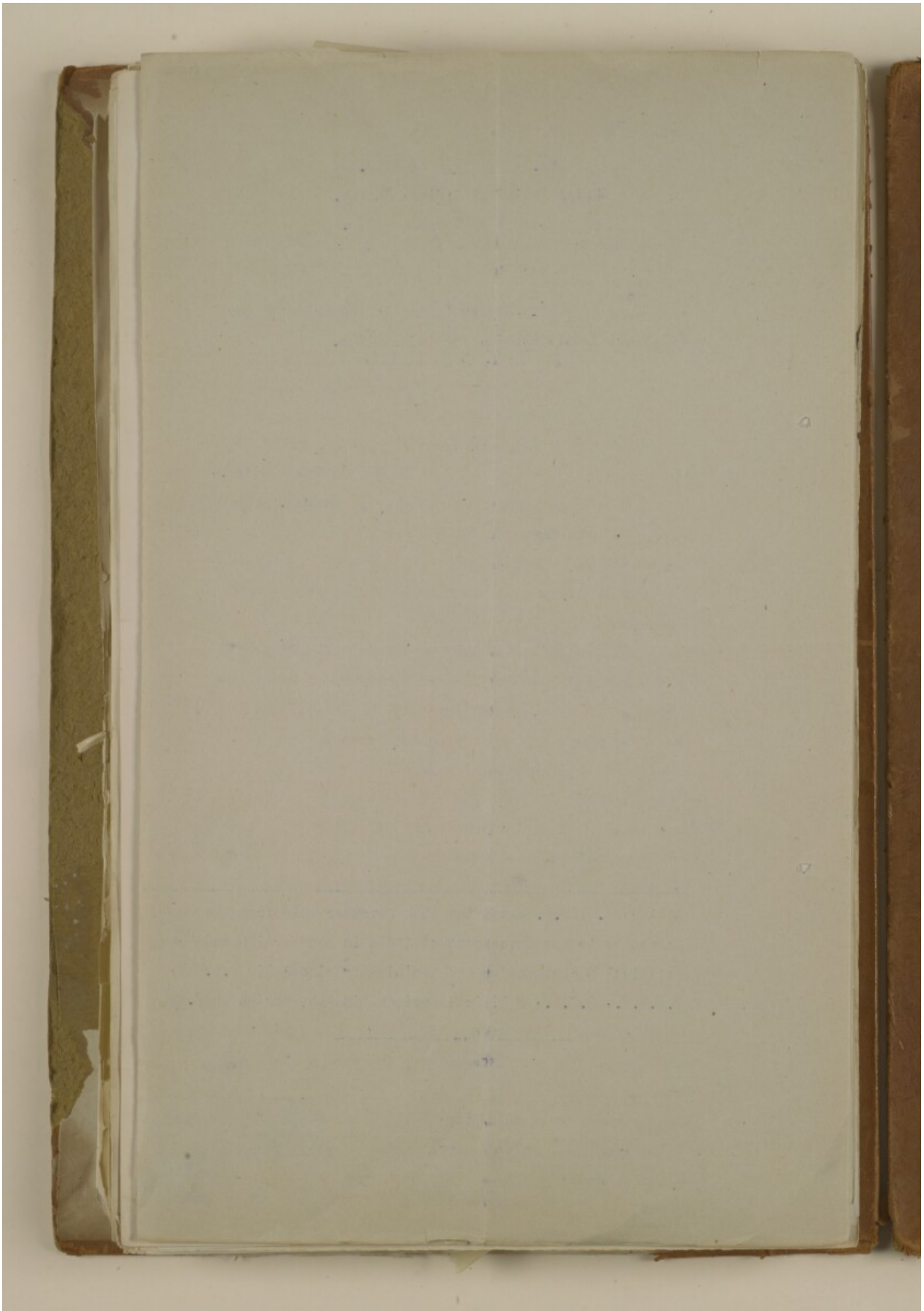
Copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the
Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

P. Z. Cox
Chief Political Officer,
Busrah.

Letter No. 173.D. dated the 18th November 1915 from the
Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and
Political Department to the Hon'ble Lt-Colonel Sir P.Z.Cox,
K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

*Shaikh Mubarak having passed away
this and similar questions are in abeyance.*

Wt ²³/₁₂





(168) 167

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 173.D.

From

The Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department.

To

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Colonel
Sir P. Z. Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Busrah.

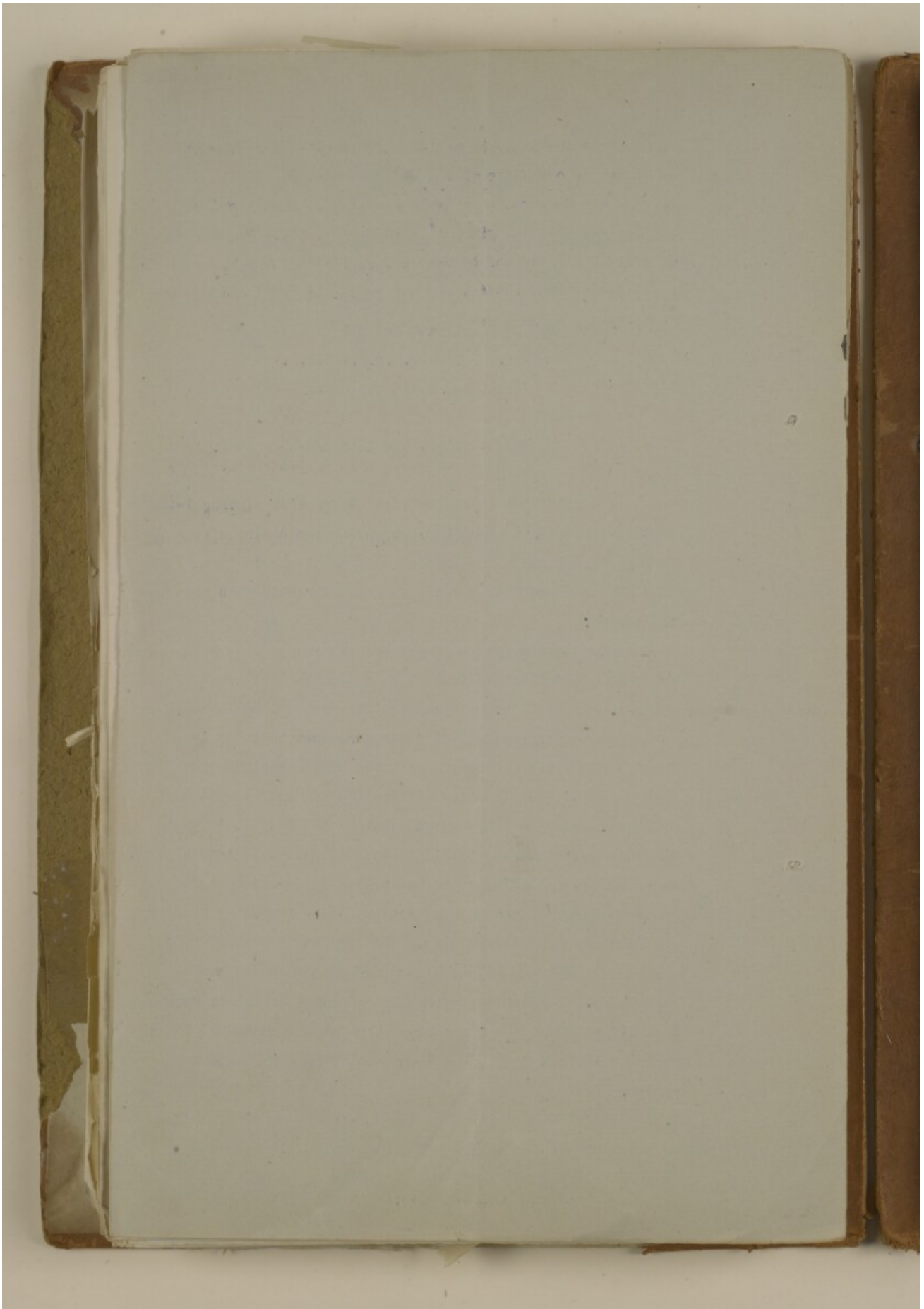
Dated, Delhi, the 18th November 1915.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 14th September 1915, regarding the desire of the Shaikh of Koweit that the British Government should farm from him or manage for him all sources of revenue and pay him the income:

2. The question has been referred to His Majesty's Government and I am now desired to convey the following remarks. It is fully realised that the proposal would have the advantage of crystallising our paramount position in Koweit, but while anxious to meet the Shaikh's wishes the Government of India foresee difficulties in accepting the proposal. With so large an undertaking the Political Agent would be quite unable himself to deal without assistance, and a large staff, including probably customs officers, revenue collectors and an accounts office, would be necessary to carry out the scheme satisfactorily. The cost would consequently be considerable and might be regarded by the Shaikh as excessive. Further the resentment of local officials would probably be aroused by loss of employment and opportunities of securing illicit profits, and serious obstruction might result.

3. Apart from this, the Shaikh's successor might object to the continuation of the arrangement proposed which we should presumably be bound to perpetuate in view of our pledges to Sir Mubarak-us-Subah. The position of the new





(169)

168

ruler would certainly be politically weakened and he might be forced into a state of actual antagonism to us.

4. The Government of India are of opinion that while Sir Mubarak might be given an assurance that His Majesty's Government are anxious to meet his wishes in the matter, if practicable, ^{his visit should, if you see no objection} be invited after the foregoing difficulties have been frankly pointed out to him.

I have the honour to be,

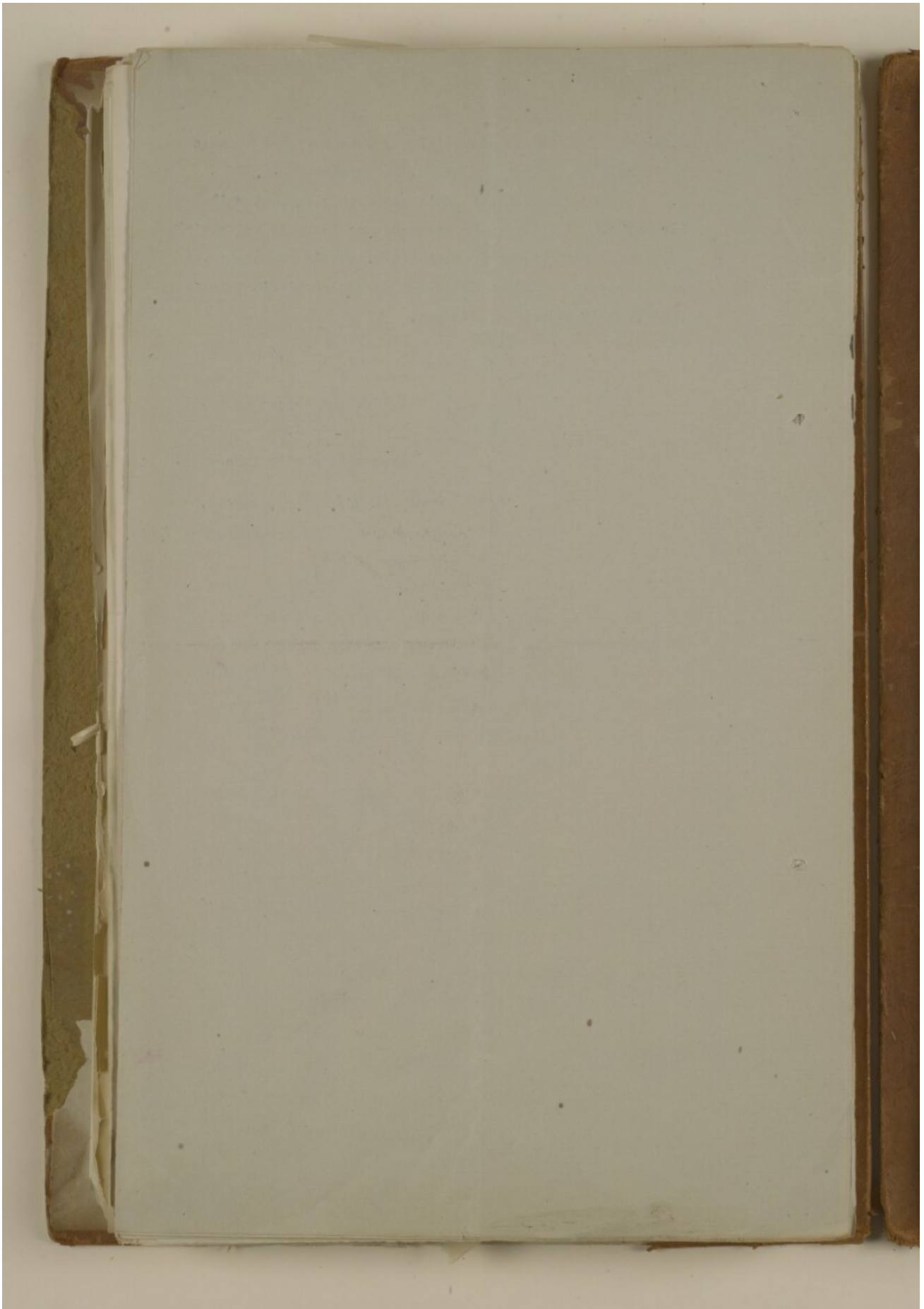
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/. J. L. Maffey,

for Secretary to the Government of India.

G.A.





(170) 169

No. 108.

CHIEF POLITICAL OFFICE, BASRAH,
December 18th, 1915.

To

The Political Agent,
K O W E I T.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter with enclosures for delivery to Shaikh Jabir, if there is nothing in the local situation to make it undesirable to do so. If there is, then please take off the copy of the telegram which did not reach Shaikh Jabir and give it to him with the necessary explanation.

If as Shaikh Khazal tells me Jabir has made good his position and Salim has accepted the situation, then it may be presumed I think that Government will accord him recognition.

I have the honour to be,

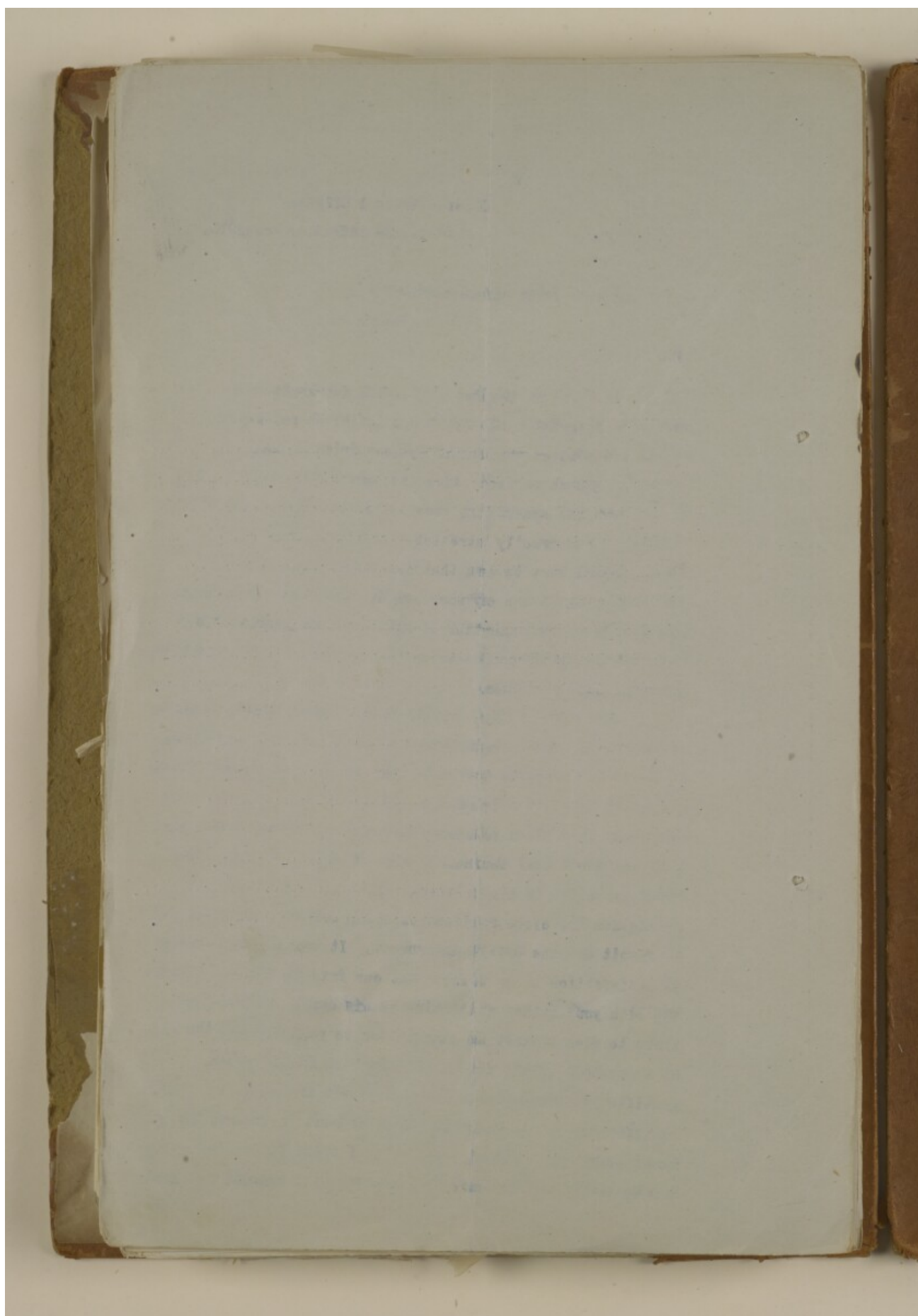
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. D. Cox Lieut-Colonel,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
and Chief Political Officer, BASRAH.

P.S. Since above was written I have received you C. 41. of 11th Dec, from which I see that you confirm Shaikh Khazal's report - there can be no doubt that Govt will recognize Shaikh Jabir, mean- while my letter to the latter can be delivered to him. P.D.C.

Done on 22/12/15. Reply sent on 23/12 1915.





(71) 170

D. O.

Chief Political Office,

Basrah, the 16th December 1915.

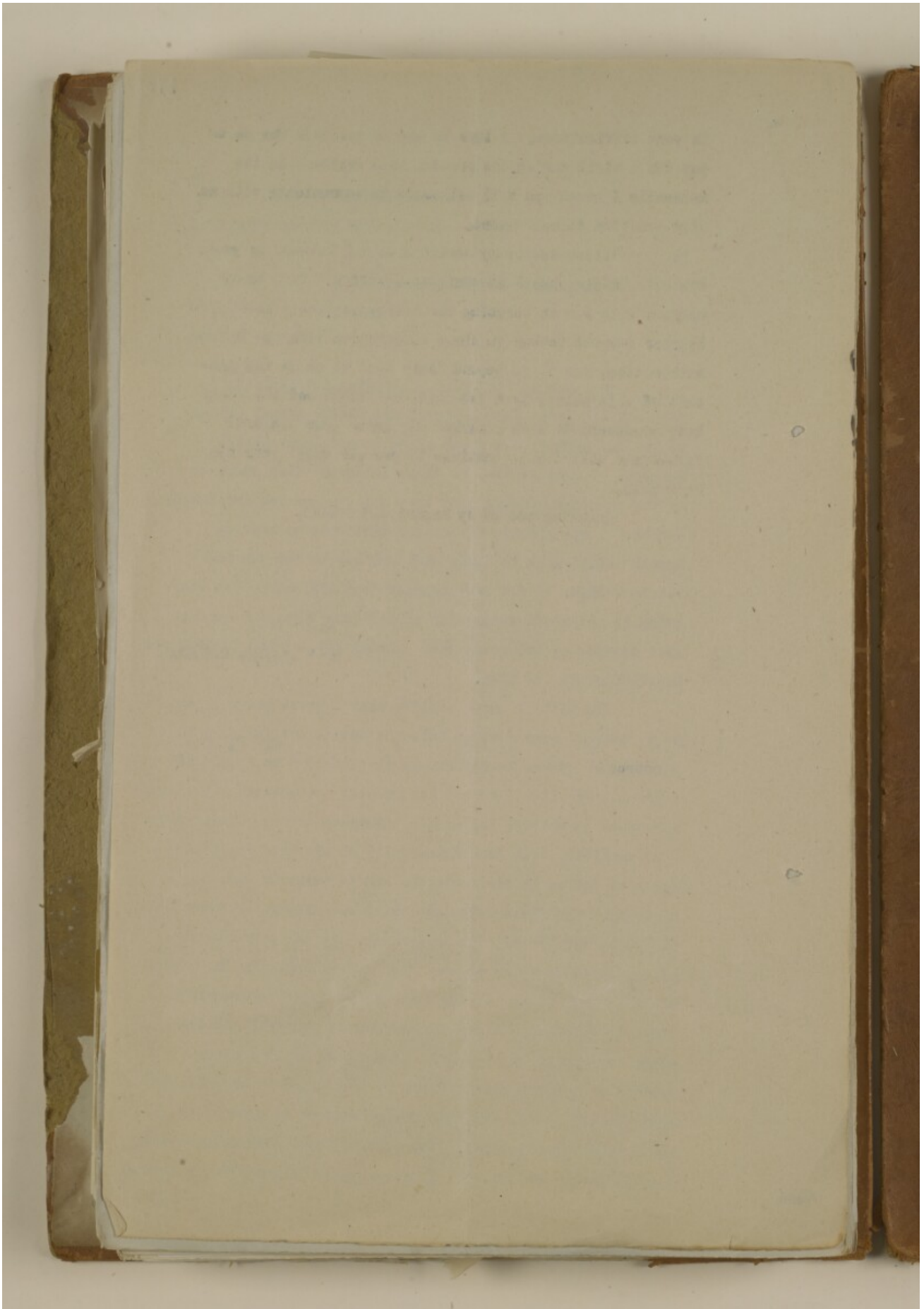
To

Shaikh Jabar bin Mubarak-es-Subah,
Koweit.

A.C.

As I was on the point of leaving Kut-al-Amara I received telegrams from yourself and Shaikh Khazal giving me the sad news of the death of my dear friend, Shaikh Mubarak. I sent replies to these telegrams from Amara on my way down and presume that they had reached you and Shaikh Khazal. I was greatly distressed yesterday on meeting Shaikh Khazal here to learn that neither he nor you had received them. I can only suppose that the reason was that, owing to the great congestion of military telegraph work at that moment, my telegrams were crowded out. I beg to send you herewith copies of them.

You will, I know, realize what a great grief it was to me to hear of your revered father's death, and it is no less a source of sorrow to Government who had come to regard him as a trusted and firm ally and had greatly appreciated his staunch adherence to British friendship interests for many years past. I am confident that Your Honour will do all that is in your power to follow in his footsteps and to maintain and to strengthen the close relations existing between the principality of Koweit and the British Government. It was a great source of satisfaction to me to know that our friend, Shaikh Khazal, was with your father at the time of his death and remained there to give support and consolation to yourself and the other members of his family. I have been still further gratified to learn that affairs in Koweit are in an entirely satisfactory state, and that the government is proceeding as usual under your control. You will, I know, find Colonel Grey a sympathetic adviser and, I trust, you will consult him freely
in





(172) 171

in your difficulties. I hope it may be possible for me to pay you a visit during the present cold weather; in the meanwhile I trust you will not cease to communicate with me when you find it convenient.

Please convey my condolences and salaams to your brother, Salim, who, I am confident, will not fail to co-operate with you in pursuing the policy so firmly maintained by your revered father in close association with the British authorities, for it is beyond doubt that it is in the pursuit of this policy that interests of Koweit and its ruler have prospered in such a marked way under your honoured father and will I hope continue to prosper under your own rulership.

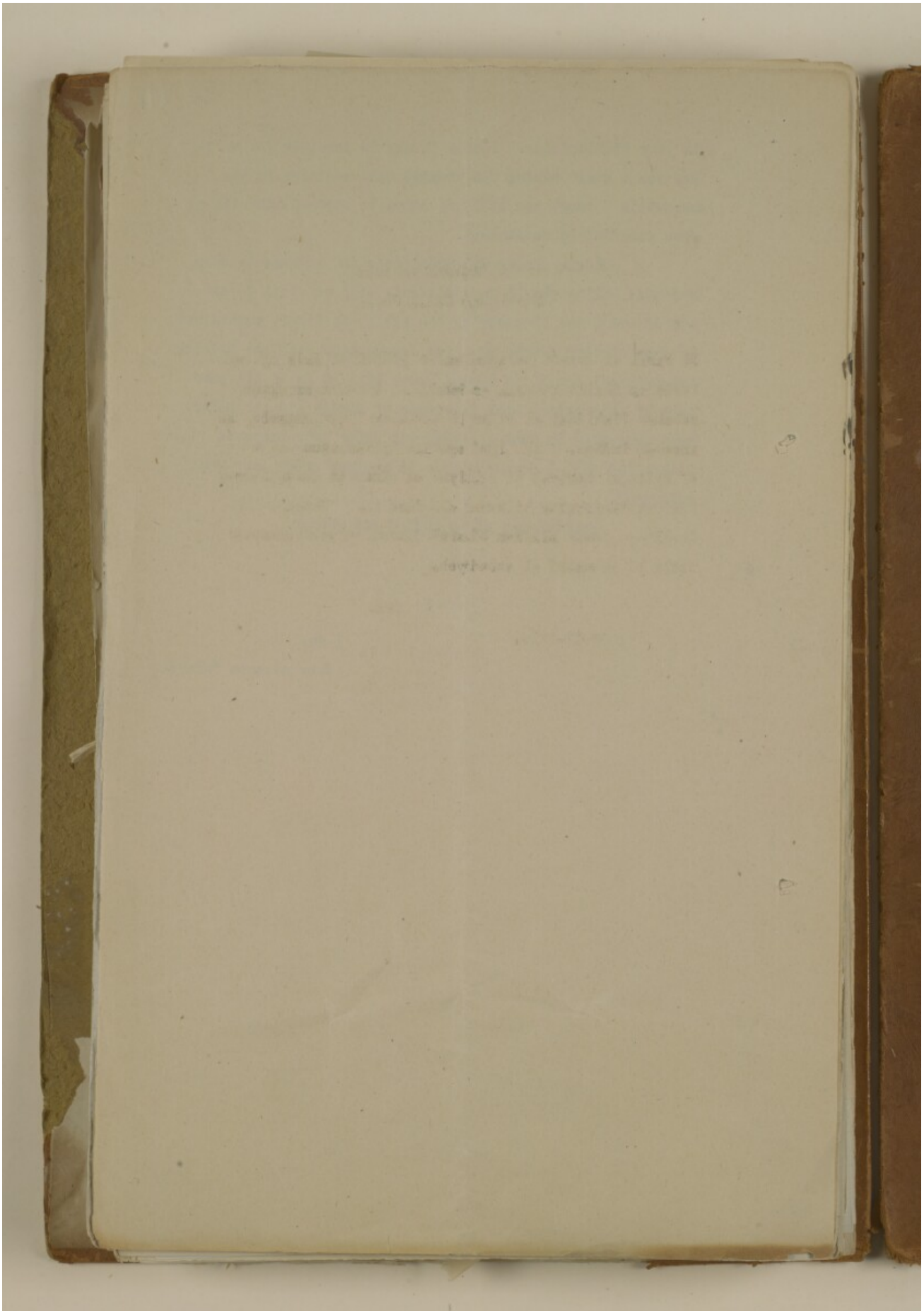
Assuring you of my regard and esteem,

I am,

Your sincere friend,

C. P. O.

G. A.





(173) 172

To

Shaikh Ja'abit bin Mubarak as Subah,

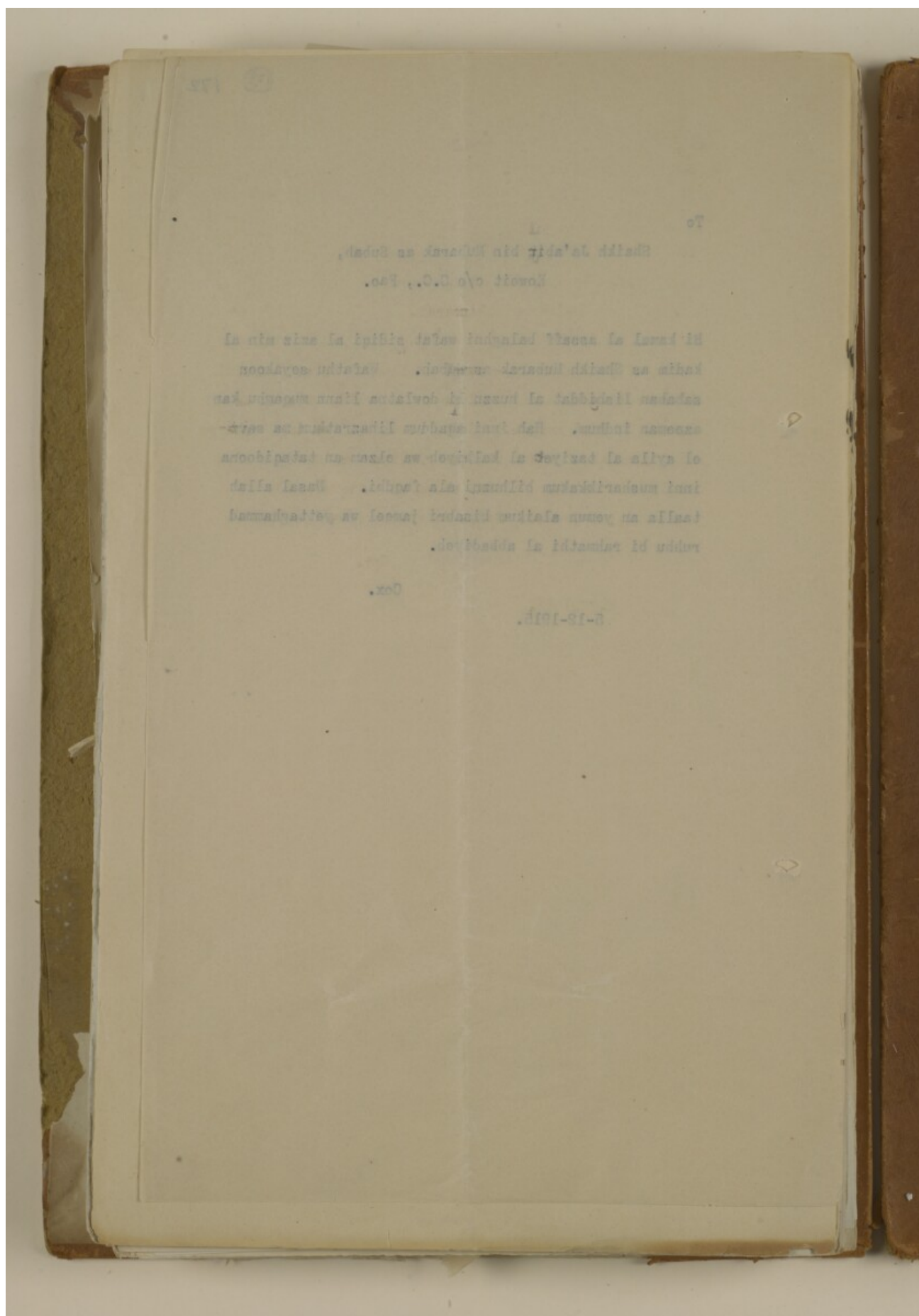
Koweit c/o C.C., Fao.

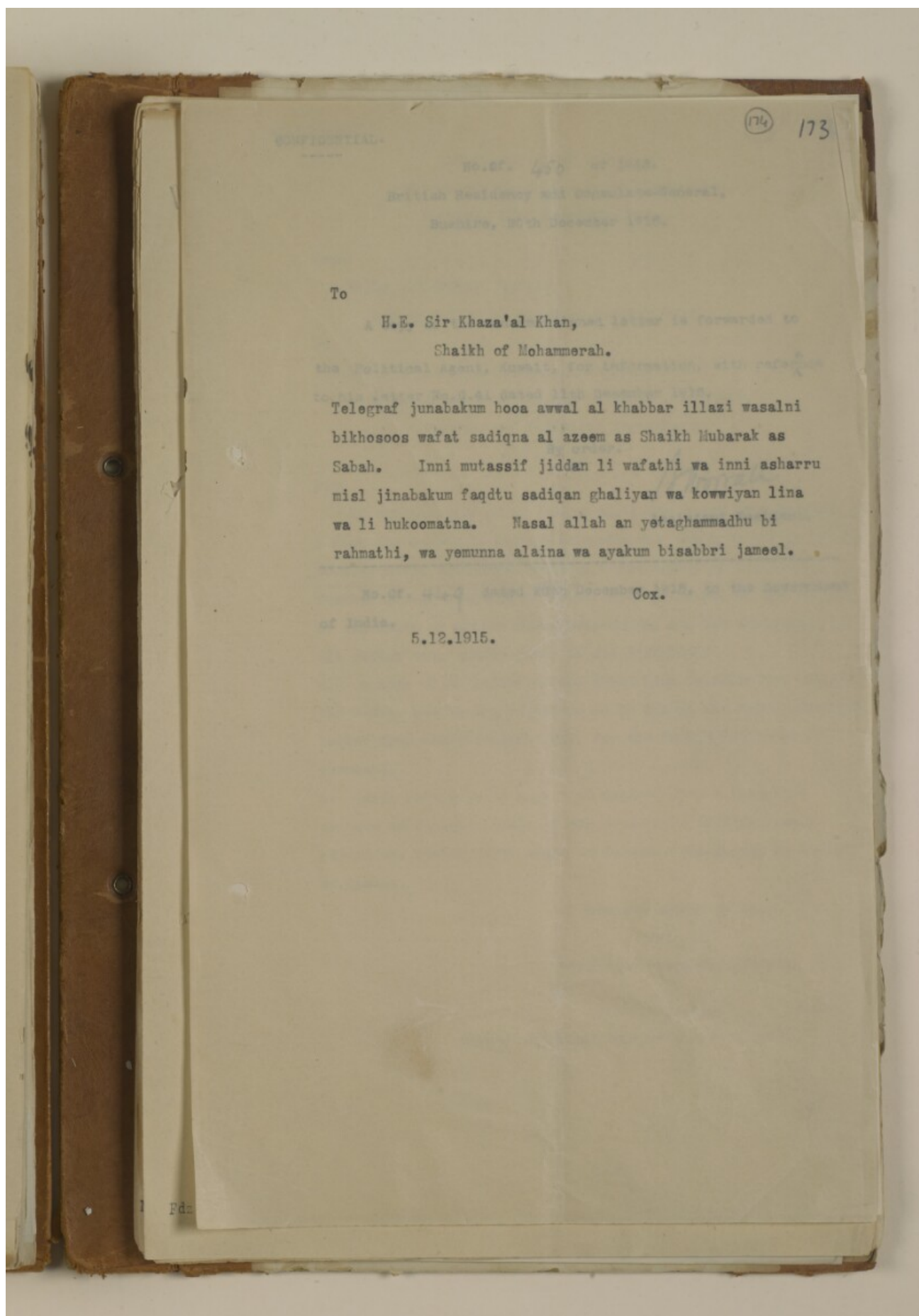
Health of Shaikh as Subah.

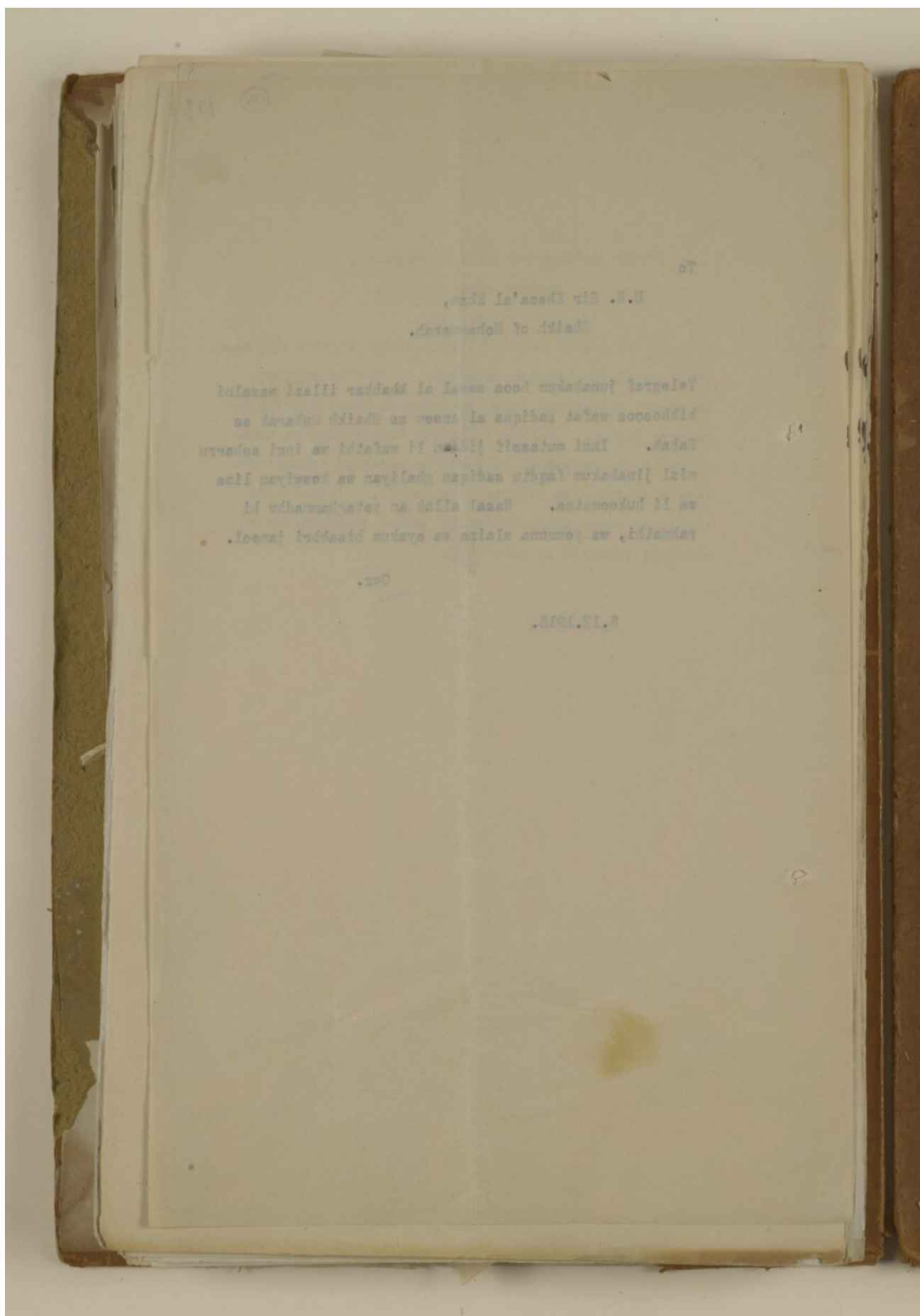
Bi kamal al assaff balaghni wafat sidiqi al aziz min al
kadam as Shaikh Mubarak as Sabah. Wafathu seyakoon
sababan lishiddat al huzzn li dowlatna liann muqamhu kan
azeeman indhum. Hah inni aqaddum lihazratkum ma sair
el ayila al taziye al kalbiyeh wa elzam an tataqidoona
inni musharikkakum bilhuzni ala faqdhi. Nasal allah
taalla an yemun alaikum bisabri jameel wa yettaghammad
ruhhu bi rahmathi al abbadiyeh.

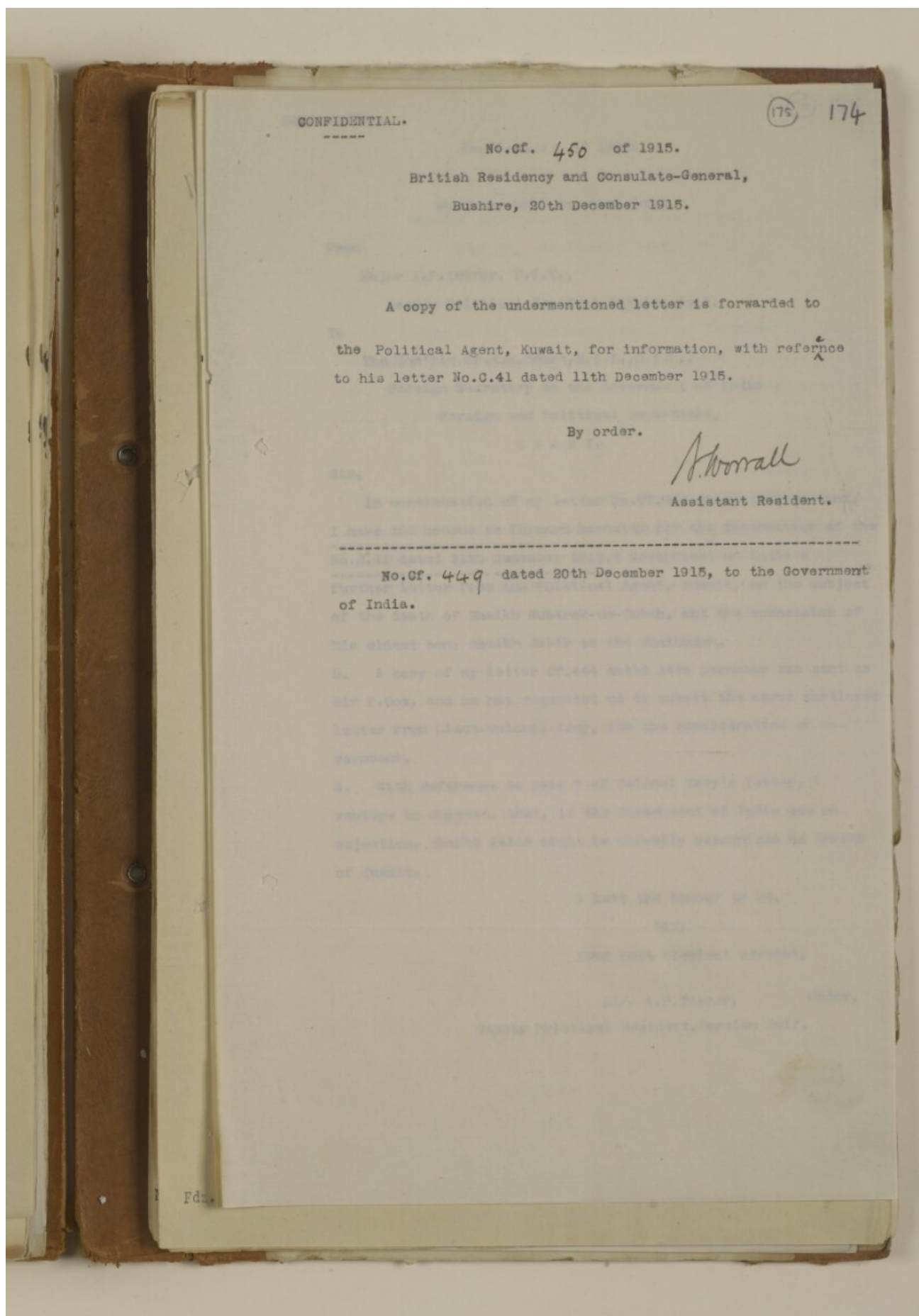
Cox.

5-12-1915.









CONFIDENTIAL.

(175) 174

No.Cf. 450 of 1915.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th December 1915.

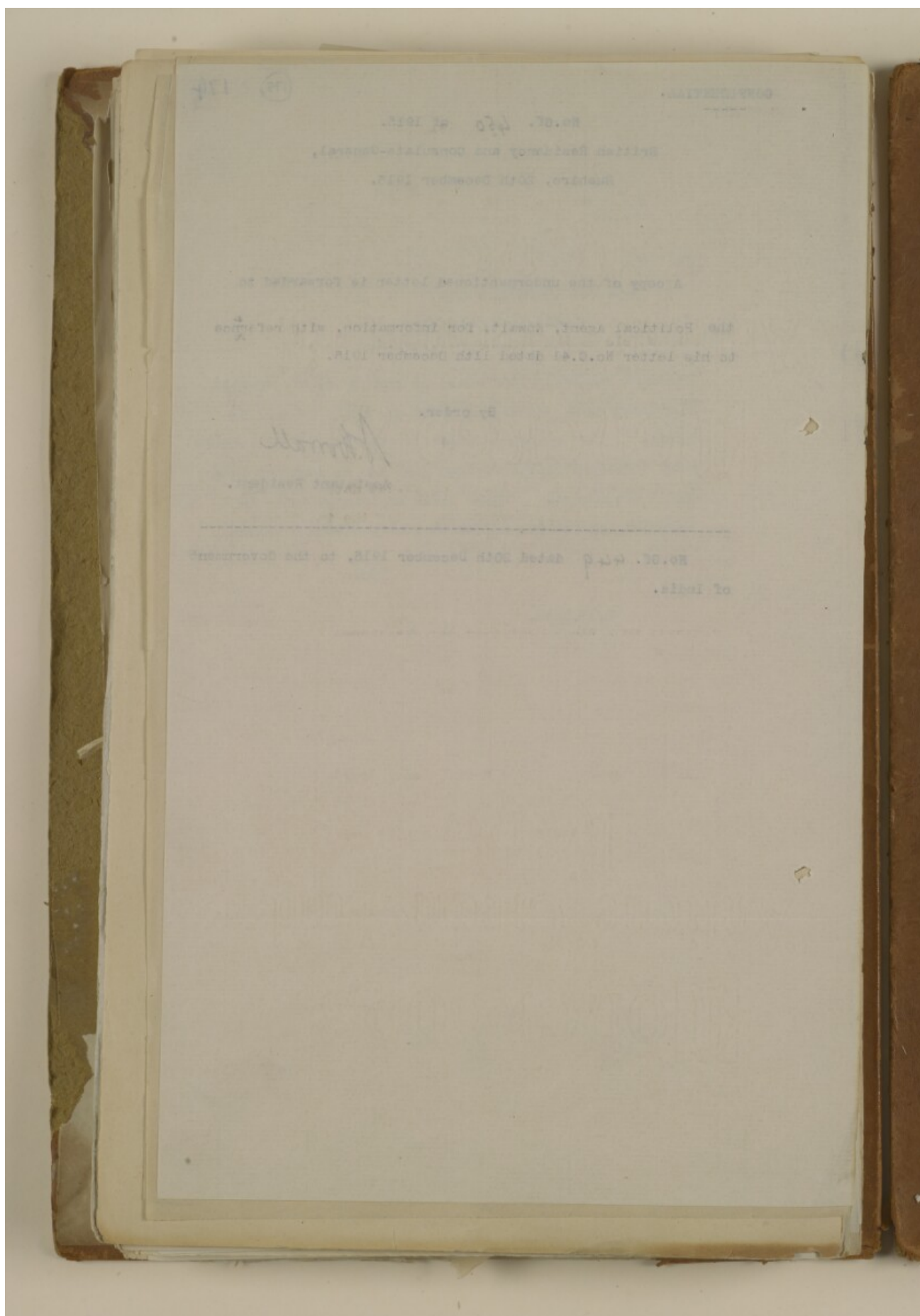
A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information, with reference to his letter No.C.41 dated 11th December 1915.

By order.

A. Hornall

Assistant Resident.

No.Cf. 449 dated 20th December 1915, to the Government of India.





CONFIDENTIAL.

(176) 175

No.Cf. 449 of 1915.

British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 20th December 1915.
British Residency and Consulate-General.

From Bushire, 4th January 1916.

Major A.P.Trevor, C.I.E.,
Deputy Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

To A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded, with
The Hon'ble Mr.A.H.Grant, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
for Foreign Secretary to the Government of India dated
20th Dec 1915 Foreign and Political Department,

D E L H I.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.Cf.444 dated 14th Instant,
I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of the
No.C.41 dated 11th December 1915, Government of India
further letter from the Political Agent, Kuwait, on the subject
of the death of Shaikh Mubarak-us-Subah, and the succession of
his eldest son, Shaikh Jabir to the Shaikhdom.

2. A copy of my letter Cf.444 dated 14th December was sent to
Sir P.Cox, and he has requested me to submit the above mentioned
letter from Lieut-Colonel Grey, for the consideration of Go-
vernment.

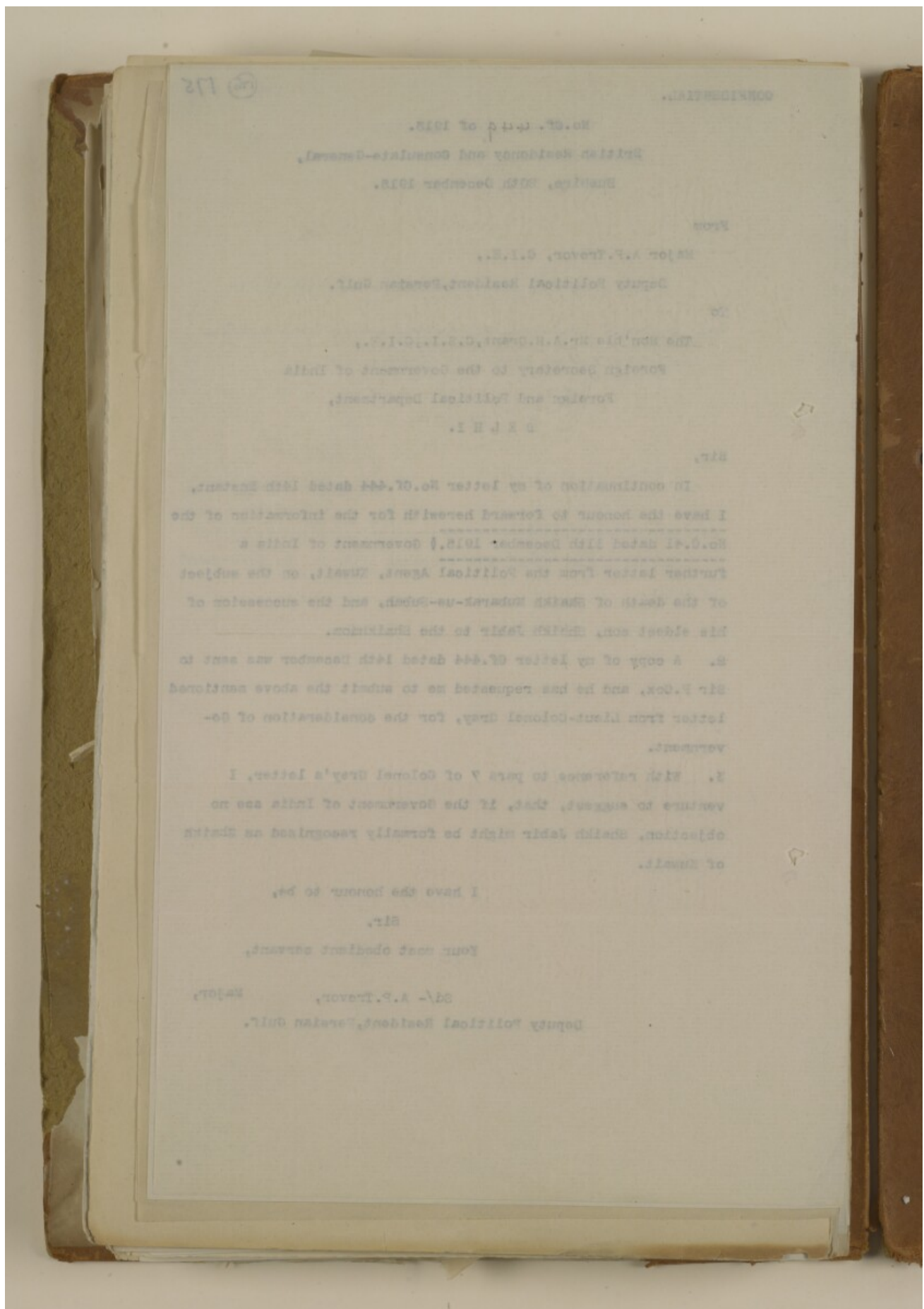
3. With reference to para 7 of Colonel Grey's letter, I
venture to suggest, that, if the Government of India see no
objection, Shaikh Jabir might be formally recognized as Shaikh
of Kuwait.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- A.P.Trevor, Major,
Deputy Political Resident, Persian Gulf.





CONFIDENTIAL.

(177)

176

No. 8-C. of 1916.
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 4th January 1916.

A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information, with reference to his letter No.C-45 dated 22nd December 1915.

Accom
Major,
Deputy Political Resident.

No. 7-C. dated 4th January 1916 from the Government of India, Foreign and Political Department.

I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the undermentioned letter dated 22nd December 1915 from the Political Agent, Kuwait, to P.M. regarding the attitude of the new Sheikh.
The incident which arose out of some anti-British letters written by one Ali Mohamed bin Khalid a Persian merchant residing in Kuwait is quite unimportant. But the way in which Sheikh Faisal dealt with the incident seems to show that he intends to maintain the most friendly attitude towards the British Government as his late father. On this account therefore the affair may be of interest to the Government of India, and I am therefore pleased to report it.

I have the honour to be,

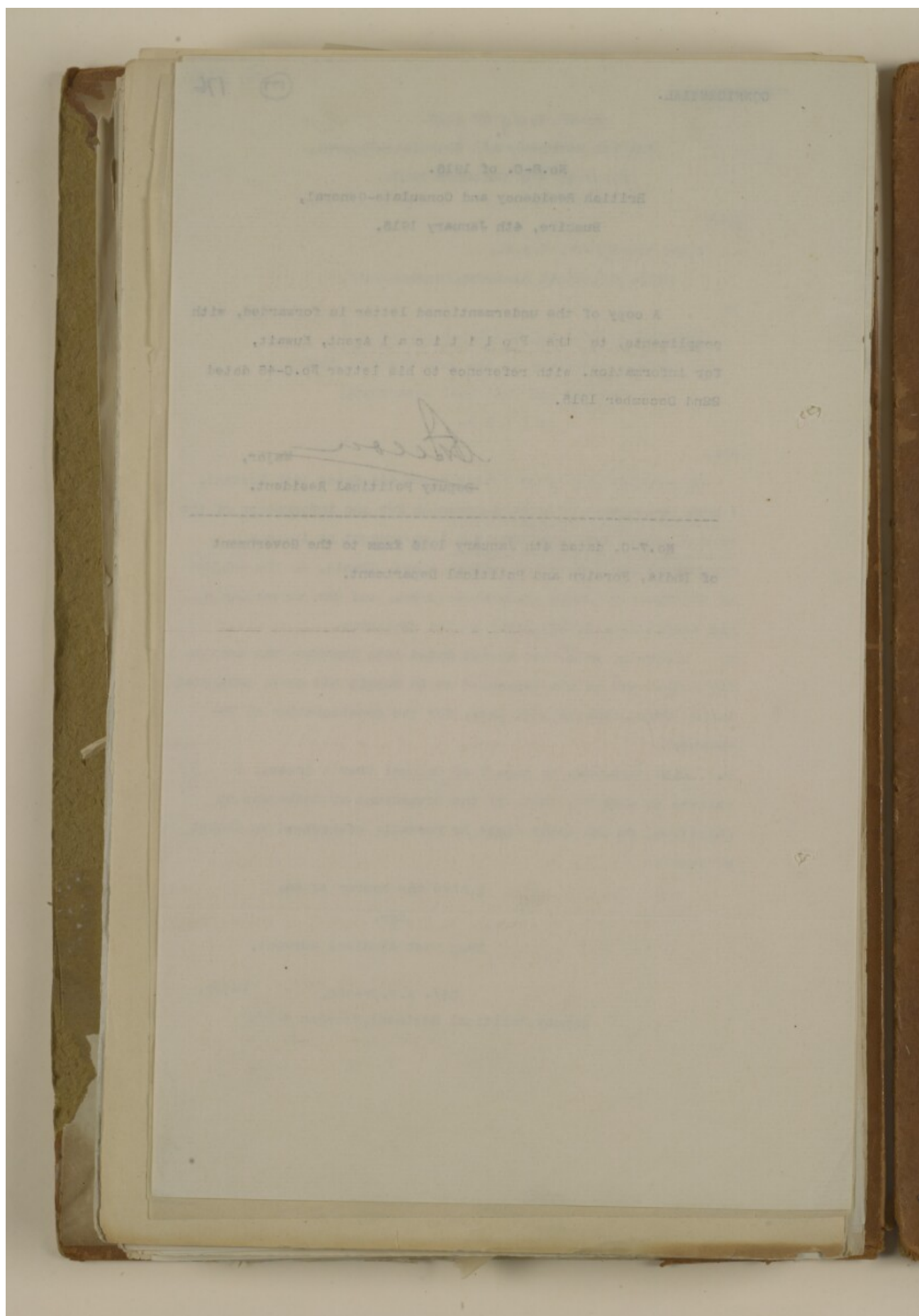
Sir,

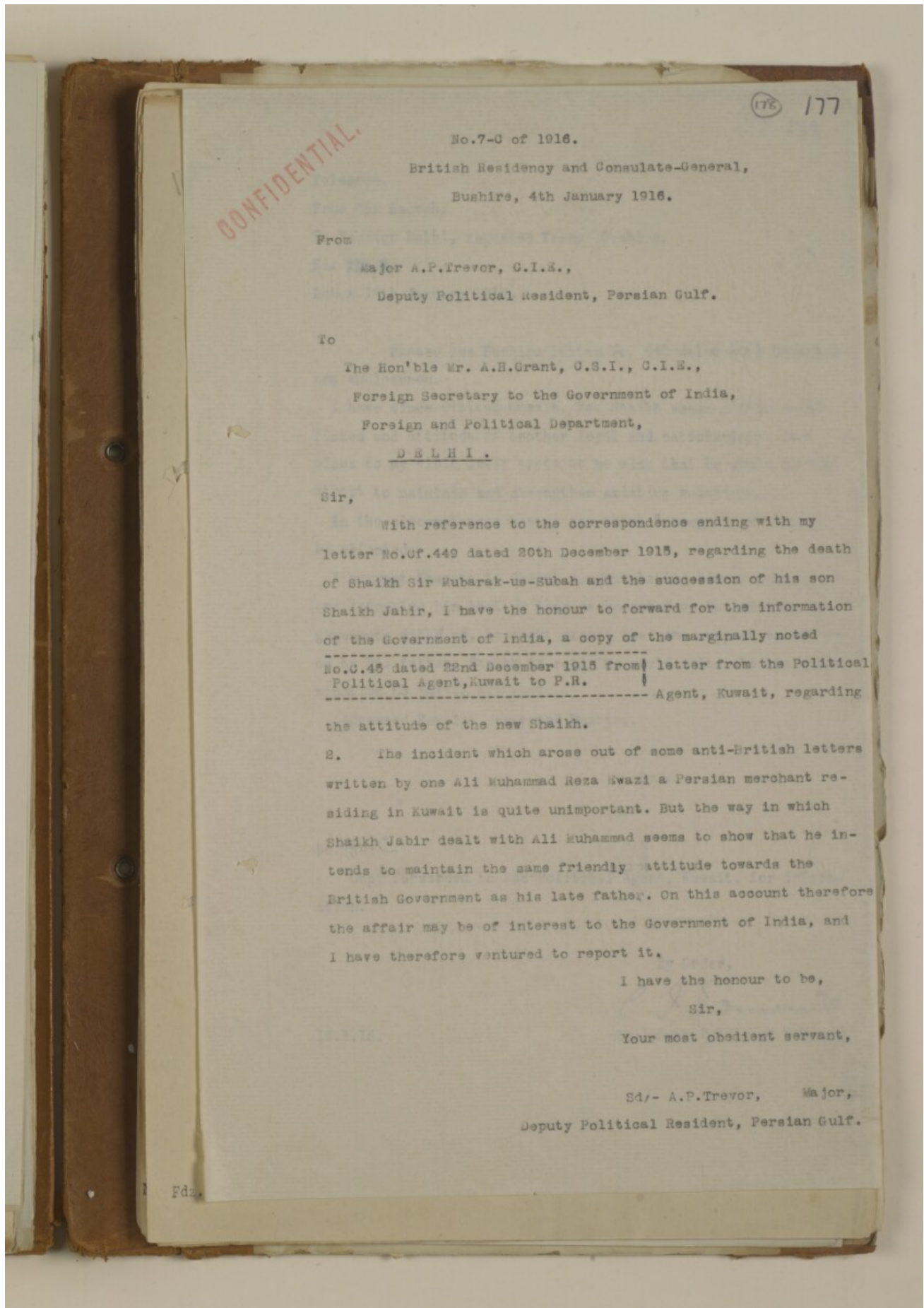
Yours most obedient servant,

M. A. P. M. M. M.

Deputy Political Resident, Bushire Gulf.

Fds.





CONFIDENTIAL

177

No.7-C of 1916.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4th January 1916.

From

Major A.P.Trevor, C.I.S.,

Deputy Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. A.H.Grant, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,

Foreign and Political Department,

DELHI.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No.Cf.449 dated 20th December 1915, regarding the death of Shaikh Sir Mubarak-us-Subah and the succession of his son Shaikh Jabir, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted No.C.45 dated 22nd December 1915 from letter from the Political Agent, Kuwait to P.R. Agent, Kuwait, regarding the attitude of the new Shaikh.

2. The incident which arose out of some anti-British letters written by one Ali Muhammad Reza Kwazi a Persian merchant residing in Kuwait is quite unimportant. But the way in which Shaikh Jabir dealt with Ali Muhammad seems to show that he intends to maintain the same friendly attitude towards the British Government as his late father. On this account therefore the affair may be of interest to the Government of India, and I have therefore ventured to report it.

I have the honour to be,

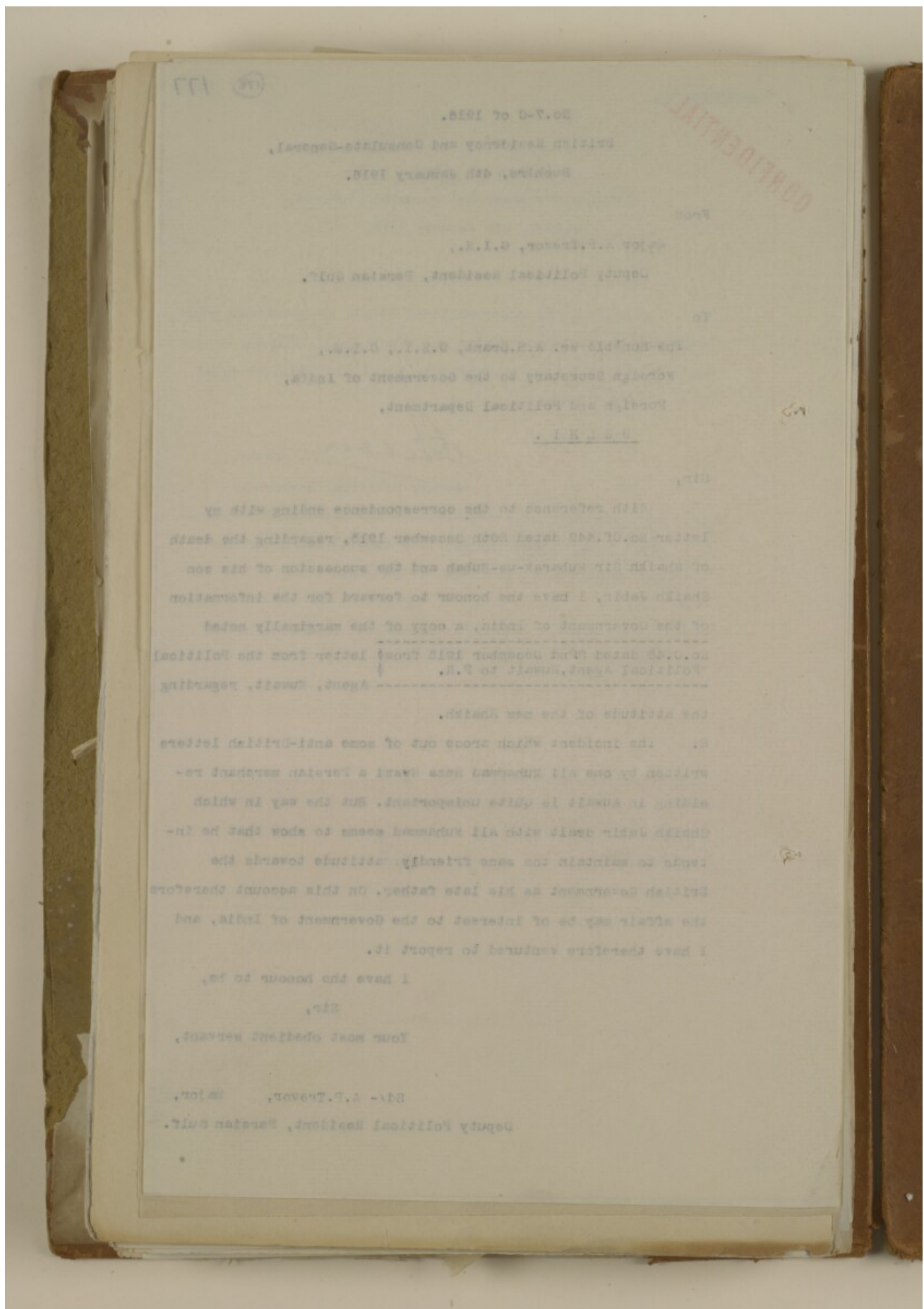
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- A.P.Trevor, Major,

Deputy Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

Fdz.





(179) 178

Telegram.

From Cox Basrah.

To Foreign Delhi, repeated Trevor Bushire.

No. 152-B.

Dated 13th January 1916.

Please see Bushire letter No. 449 dated 20th December and enclosures.

I have since visited Kuwait. New Shaikh seems firmly established and attitude of brother loyal and satisfactory. Previous to my visit Jabir wrote to me also that he would do his utmost to maintain and strengthen existing relations.

In the circumstances how do you think "recognition" should be effected.

I suggest Kharita to Shaikh congratulating him on succession and informing him that so long as he acted up to existing engagements with us, he might expect the same support as enjoyed by his father. Shaikh in replying would reiterate his determination to fulfil his part.

Addressed Foreign, repeated Bushire.

Cox.

No. 50-C

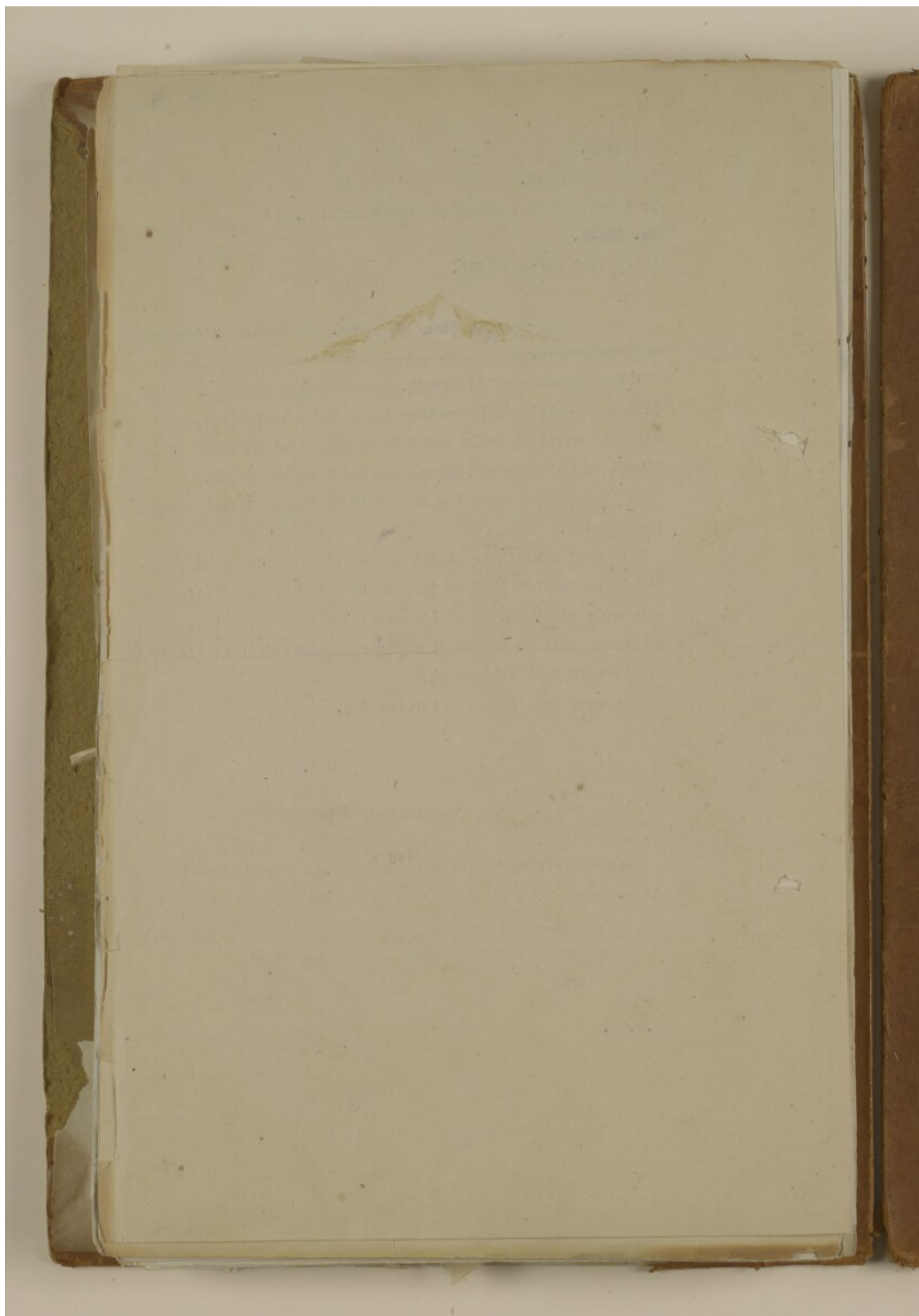
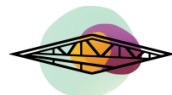
Copy forwarded to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information.

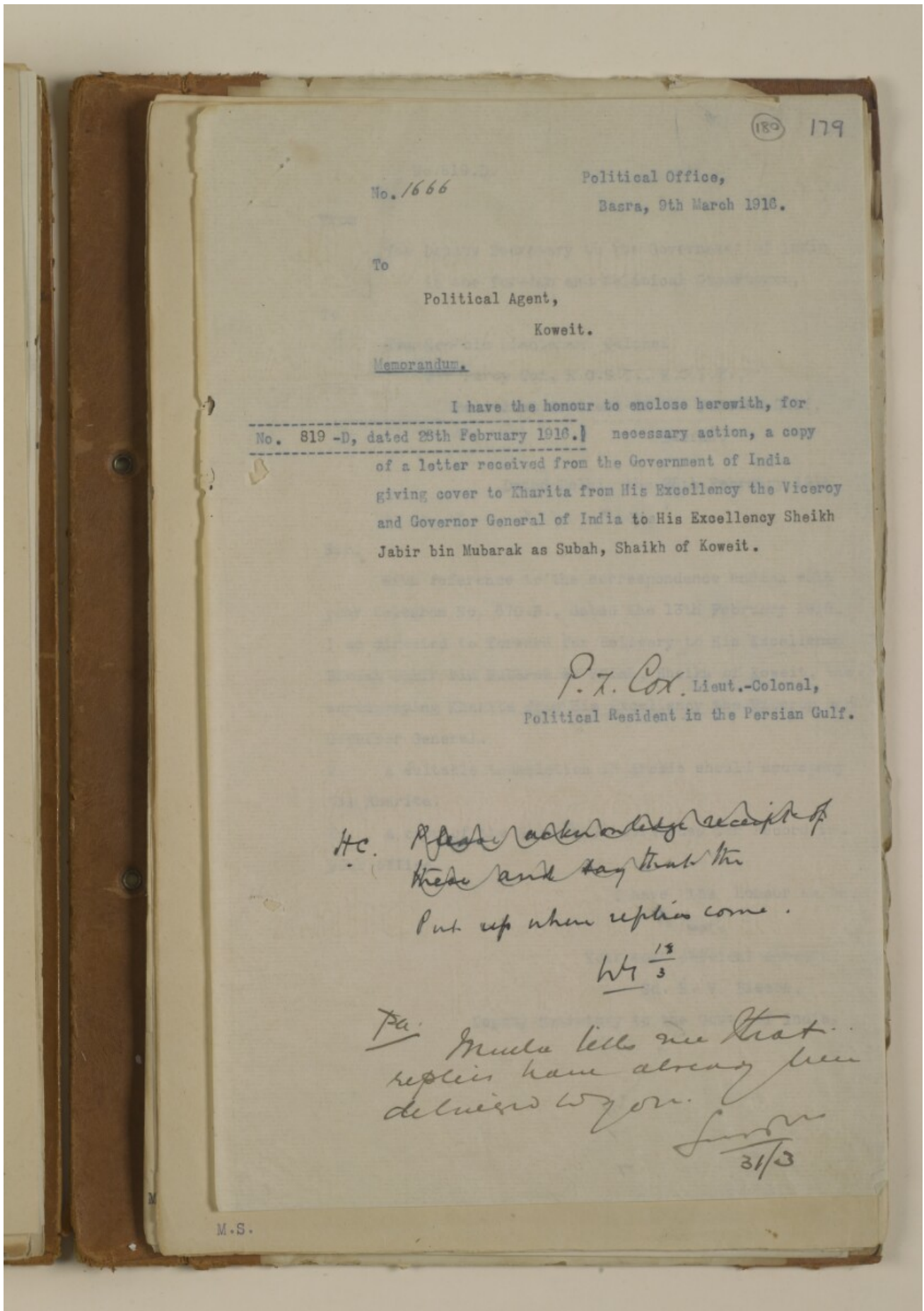
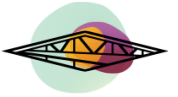
By Order,

C. J. Edmund
Assistant Political Officer.

13.1.16.

Fdz.





No. 1666

Political Office,
Basra, 9th March 1916.

To

Political Agent,
Koweit.

Memorandum.

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for
No. 819 -D, dated 28th February 1916.] necessary action, a copy
of a letter received from the Government of India
giving cover to Kharita from His Excellency the Viceroy
and Governor General of India to His Excellency Sheikh
Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Shaikh of Koweit.

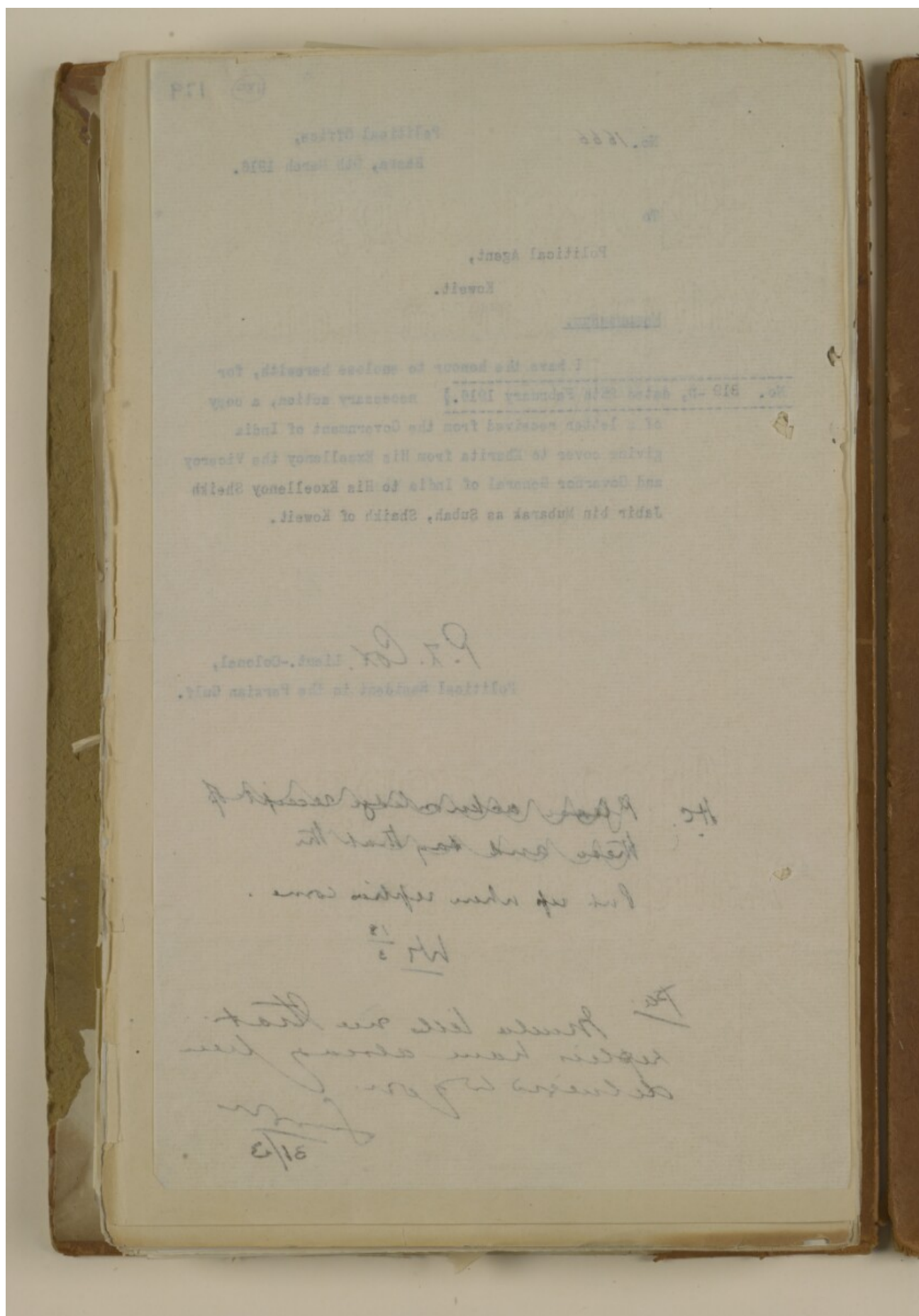
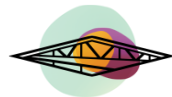
P. T. Cox. Lieut.-Colonel,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

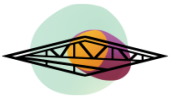
H.C. Please acknowledge receipt of
these and say that the
put up when replies come.

Wt $\frac{1}{3}$

Pa. Mulla tells me that
replies have already been
delivered by you.
31/3

M.S.





(181) 180

No.819.D.

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department,

To

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Colonel
Sir Percy Cox, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
Busrah.

Dated Delhi, the 26th February 1916.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with
your telegram No. 670.B., dated the 13th February 1916,
I am directed to forward for delivery to His Excellency
Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Sheikh of Koweit, the
accompanying Kharita from His Excellency the Viceroy and
Governor General.

2. A suitable translation in Arabic should accompany
the Kharita.

3. A copy of the Kharita is forwarded for record in
your office.

I have the honour to be,

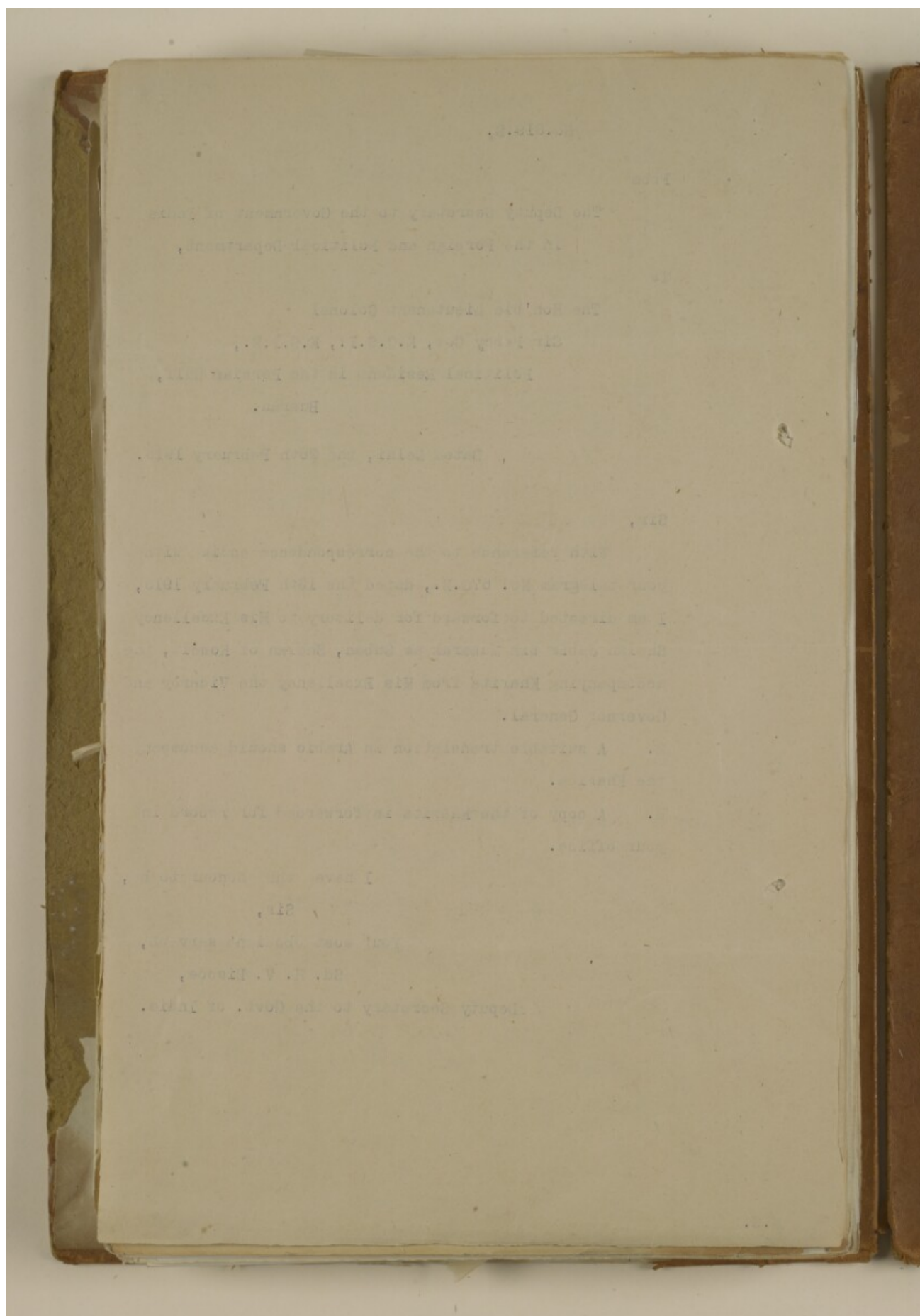
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd. H. V. Biscoe,

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India.

M.S.





(182) 181

Copy.

To

His Excellency

Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah,
Sheikh of Koweit and dependencies.

My Esteemed Friend,

It affords my Government much pleasure to recognize you as Ruler of Koweit and its dependencies in succession to your late father whose long and proved friendship were greatly appreciated by His Majesty's Government and whose death occasioned them deep regret.

Your Excellency may be assured that so long as you act up to existing arrangements with the British Government you may expect the same support as was enjoyed by your father.

I congratulate you on your succession and subscribe myself, with much consideration,

Your Excellency's sincere friend

Sd. Harding of Penshurst,
Viceroy and Governor General of India.

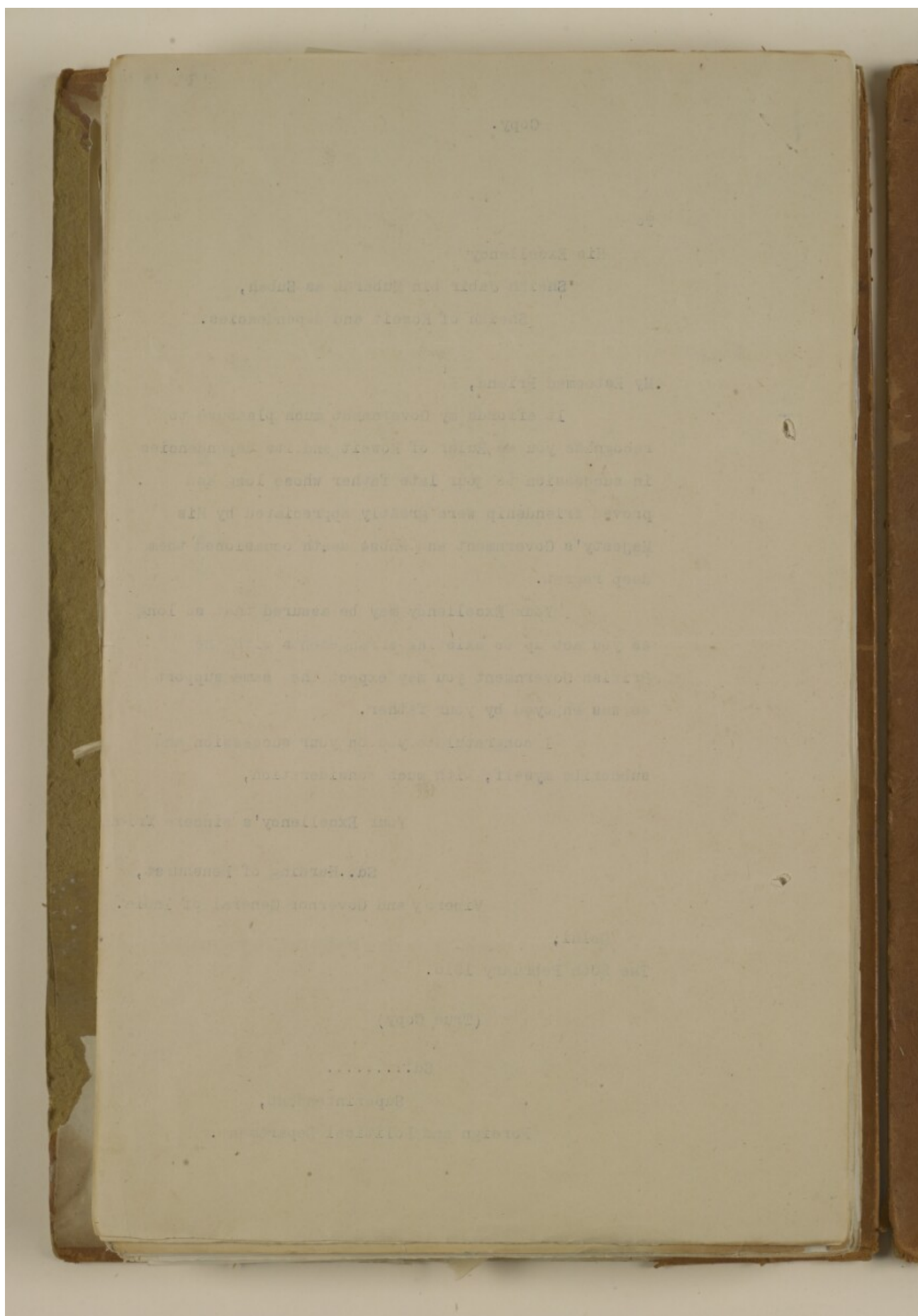
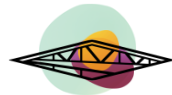
Delhi;

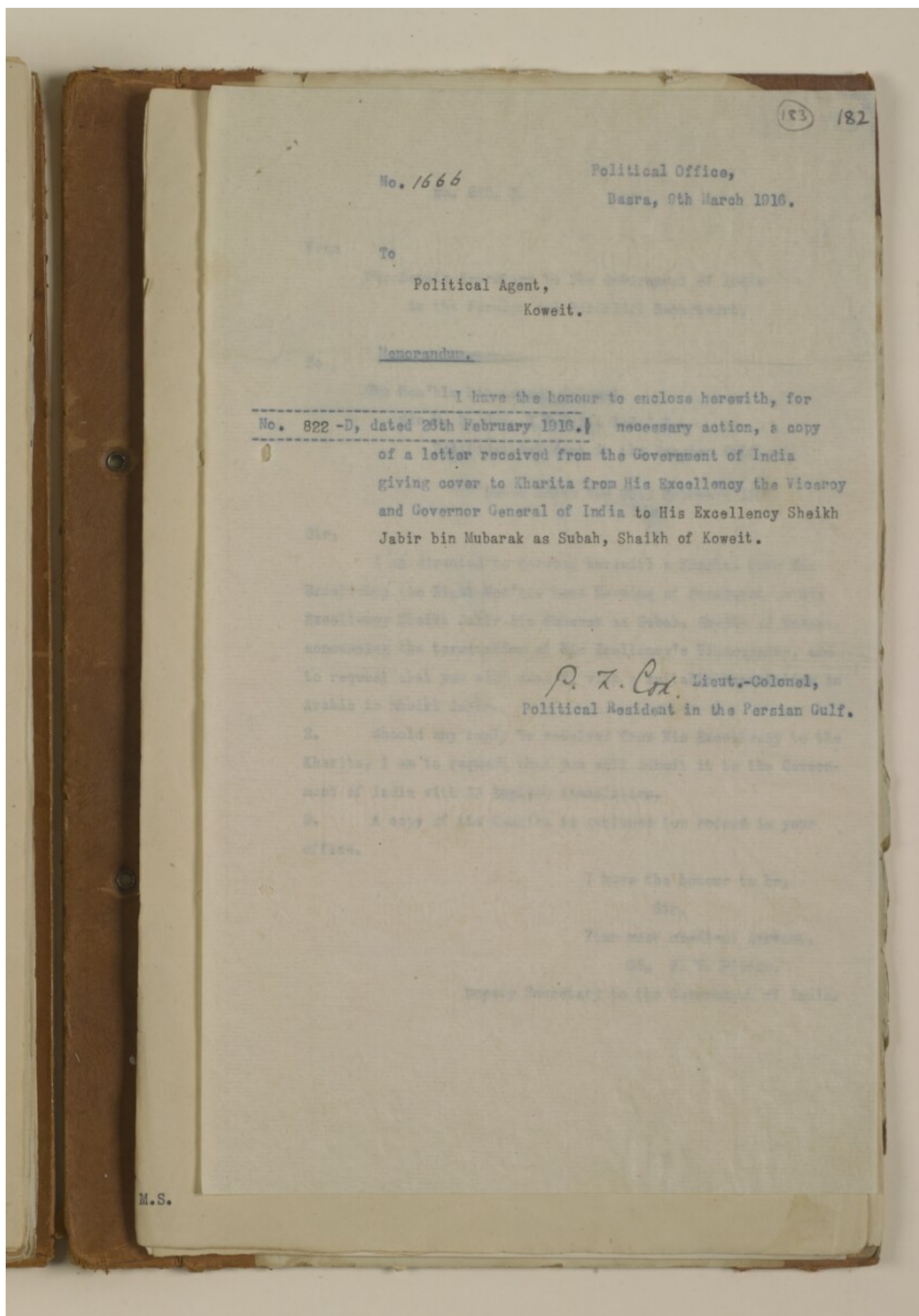
The 26th February 1916.

(True Copy)

Sd.....

Superintendent,
Foreign and Political Department.





No. 1666

Political Office,
Basra, 9th March 1916.

To
Political Agent,
Koweit.

Memorandum.

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for
No. 822 -D, dated 28th February 1916. necessary action, a copy
of a letter received from the Government of India
giving cover to Kharita from His Excellency the Viceroy
and Governor General of India to His Excellency Sheikh
Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Shaikh of Koweit.

I am directed to forward herewith a Kharita from His
Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India to His
Excellency Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Shaikh of Koweit,
authorising the transportation of His Excellency's baggage, and
to request that you will forward it to the Government of India
in Arabic to Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Shaikh of Koweit.

2. Should any reply be received from His Excellency to the
Kharita, I am to request that you will submit it to the Govern-
ment of India with the necessary translation.

3. A copy of the Kharita is enclosed for reference in your
office.

I have the honour to be,

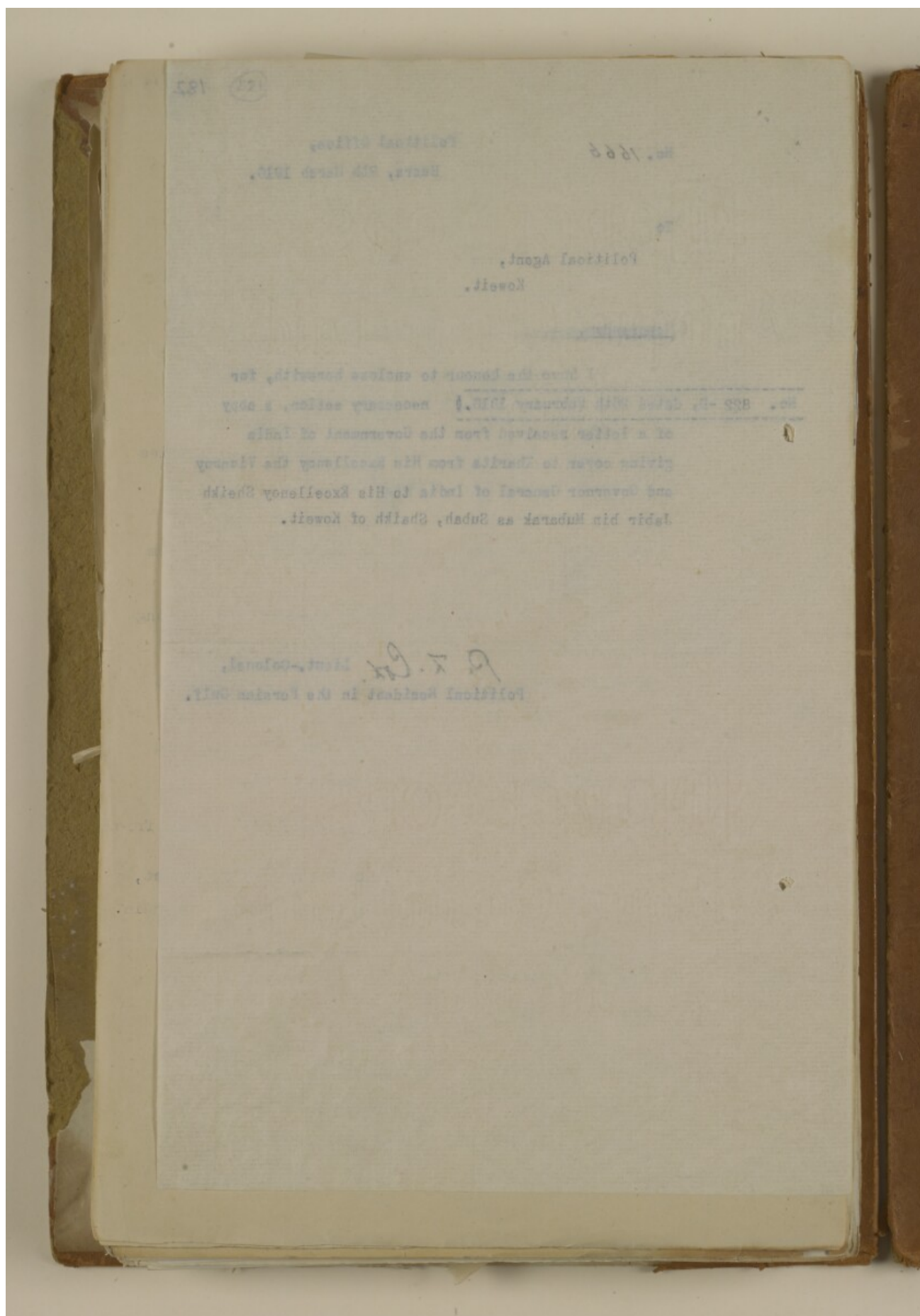
Sir,

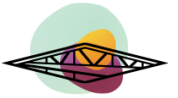
Your most obedient servant,

W. T. Phipps,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

M.S.





(184) 183

No. 822. D.

From

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department,

To

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Colonel
Sir P. Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Dated Delhi the 26th February 1916.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a Kharita from His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord Harding of Penshurst to His Excellency Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah, Sheikh of Koweit, announcing the termination of His Excellency's Viceroyalty, and to request that you will send it with a suitable translation in Arabic to Sheikh Jabir.

2. Should any reply be received from His Excellency to the Kharita, I am to request that you will submit it to the Government of India with an English translation.

3. A copy of the Kharita is enclosed for record in your office.

I have the honour to be,

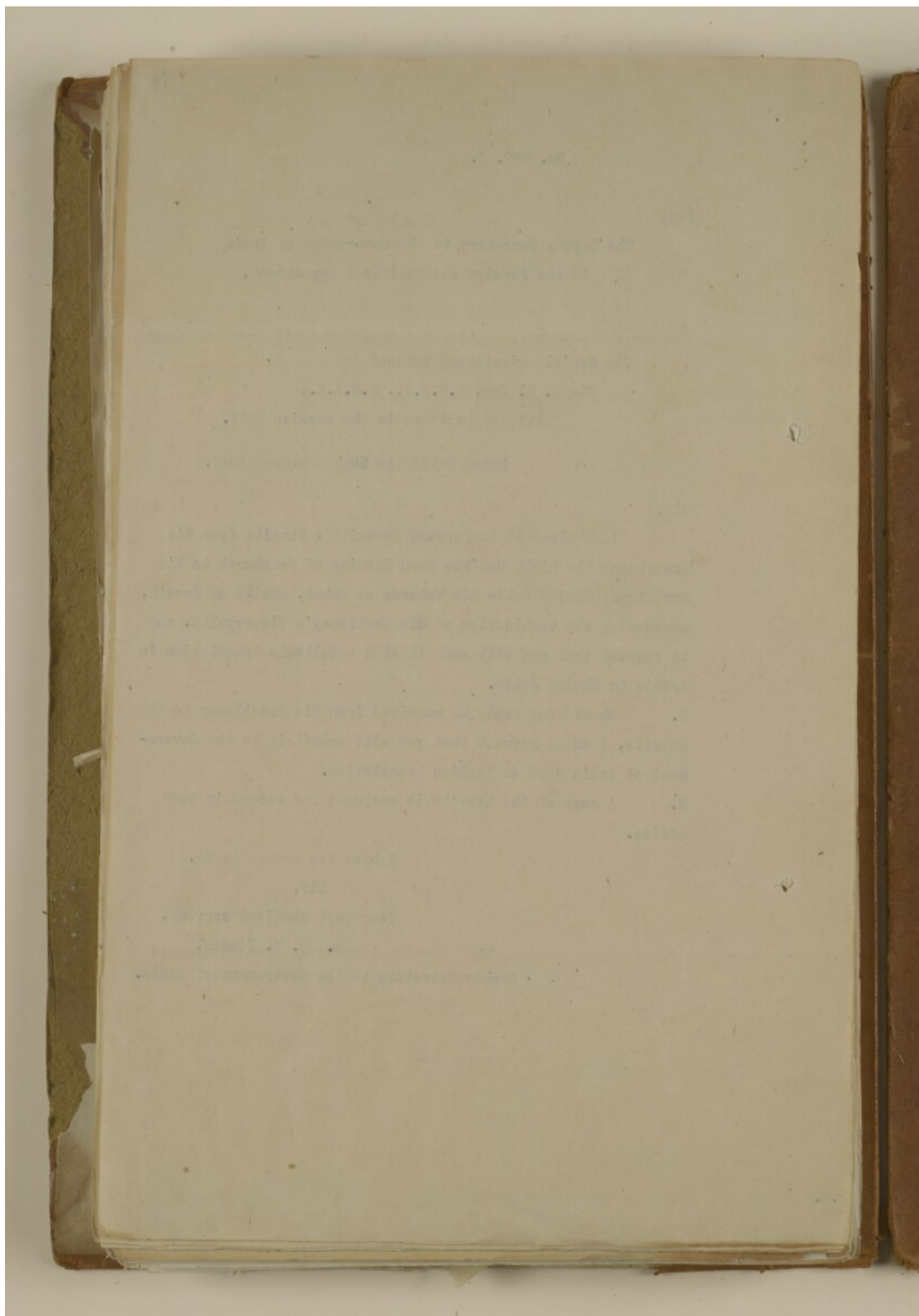
Sir,

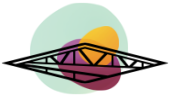
Your most obedient servant,

Sd, H. V. Biscoe,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

M.S.





185 184

To

His Excellency Sheikh Jabir bin Mubarak as Subah,
Sheikh of Koweit and dependencies.

My Esteemed Friend,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency of the termination of my Viceroyalty, and I write to bid Your Excellency a cordial farewell, and to express my sincere acknowledgment of Your Excellency's friendly attitude.

Lord Chelmsford will succeed me as Viceroy and Governor General of India.

It is a source ^{of} satisfaction to me that, during my tenure of the Viceroyalty, I have had the privilege of making Your Excellency's personal acquaintance and have been further able to demonstrate to Your Excellency the friendship of the British Government. I trust Your Excellency will continue to realise the value of that friendship and that the amicable relations between the British Government and Your Excellency's territory will become even stronger and closer in future.

I shall always continue to watch with personal interest and solicitude everything that concerns Your Excellency and your territory.

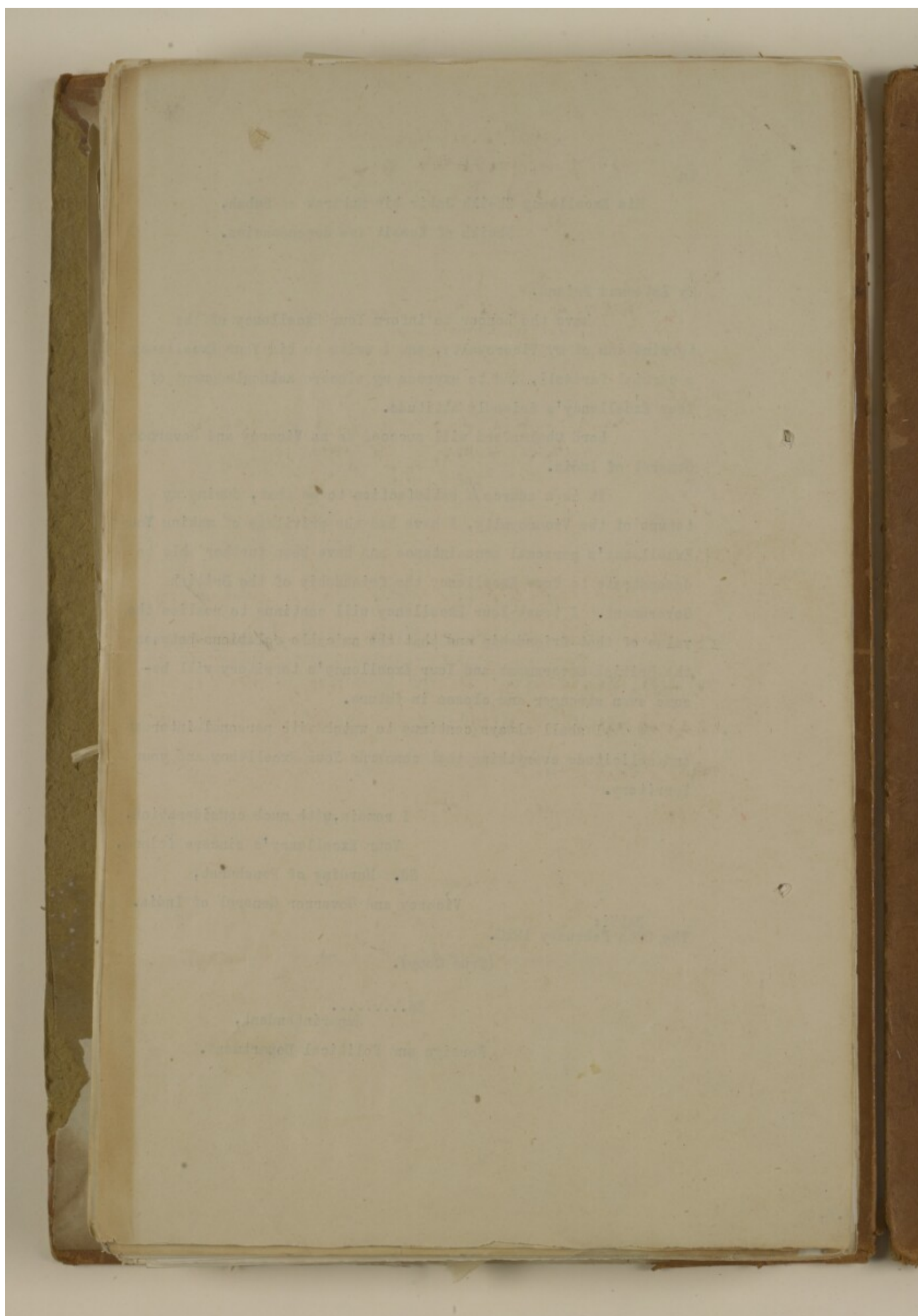
I remain, with much consideration,
Your Excellency's sincere friend,
Sd, Harding of Penshurst,
Viceroy and Governor General of India.

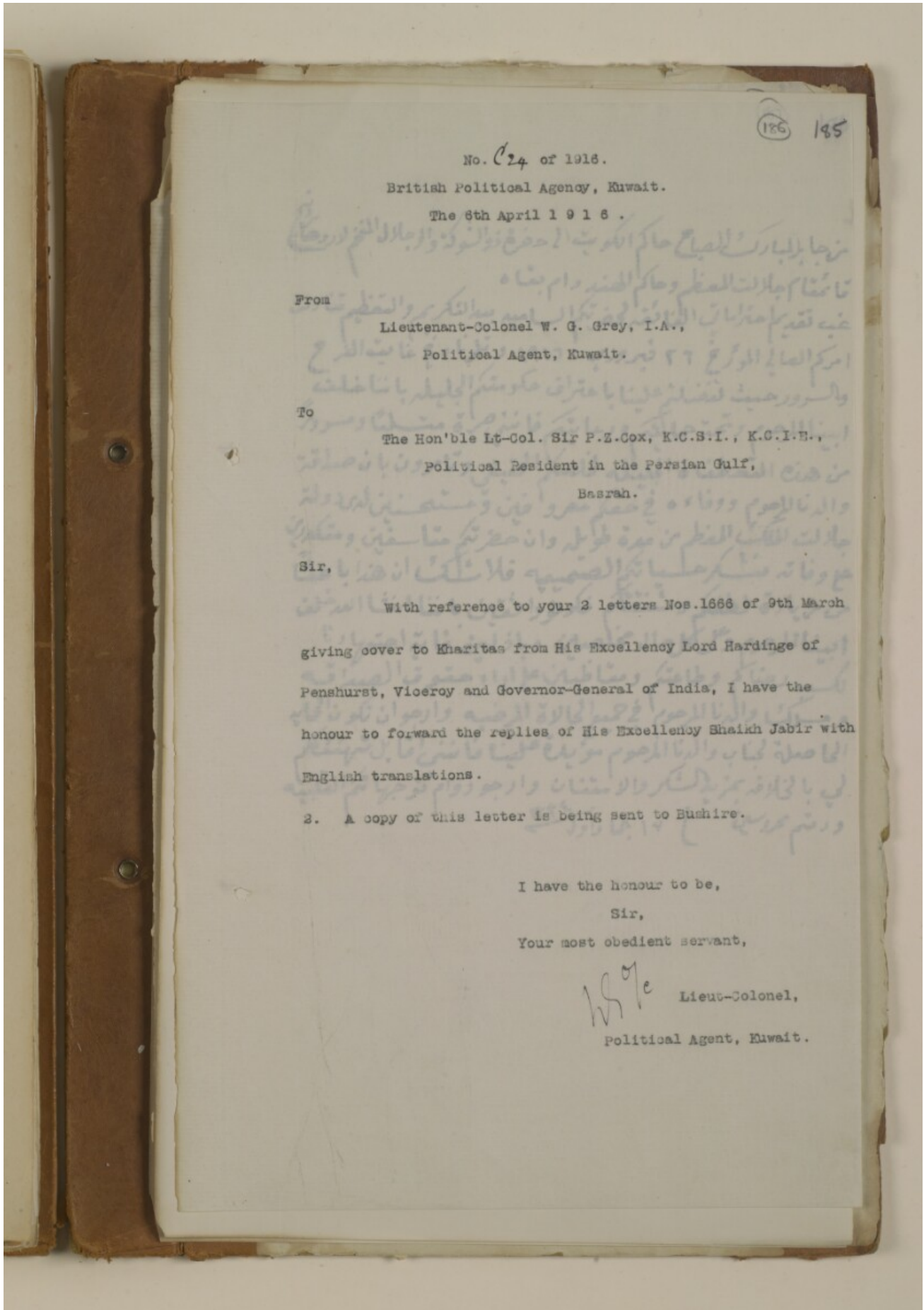
Delhi;
The 26th February 1916.

(True Copy).

Sd.....
Superintendent,
Foreign and Political Department.

M.S,





No. 24 of 1916.

British Political Agency, Kuwait.

The 6th April 1916.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel W. G. Grey, I.A.,

Political Agent, Kuwait.

To

The Hon'ble Lt-Col. Sir P. Z. Cox, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Basrah.

Sir,

With reference to your 2 letters Nos. 1666 of 9th March giving cover to Kharitas from His Excellency Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I have the honour to forward the replies of His Excellency Shaikh Jabir with English translations.

2. A copy of this letter is being sent to Bushire.

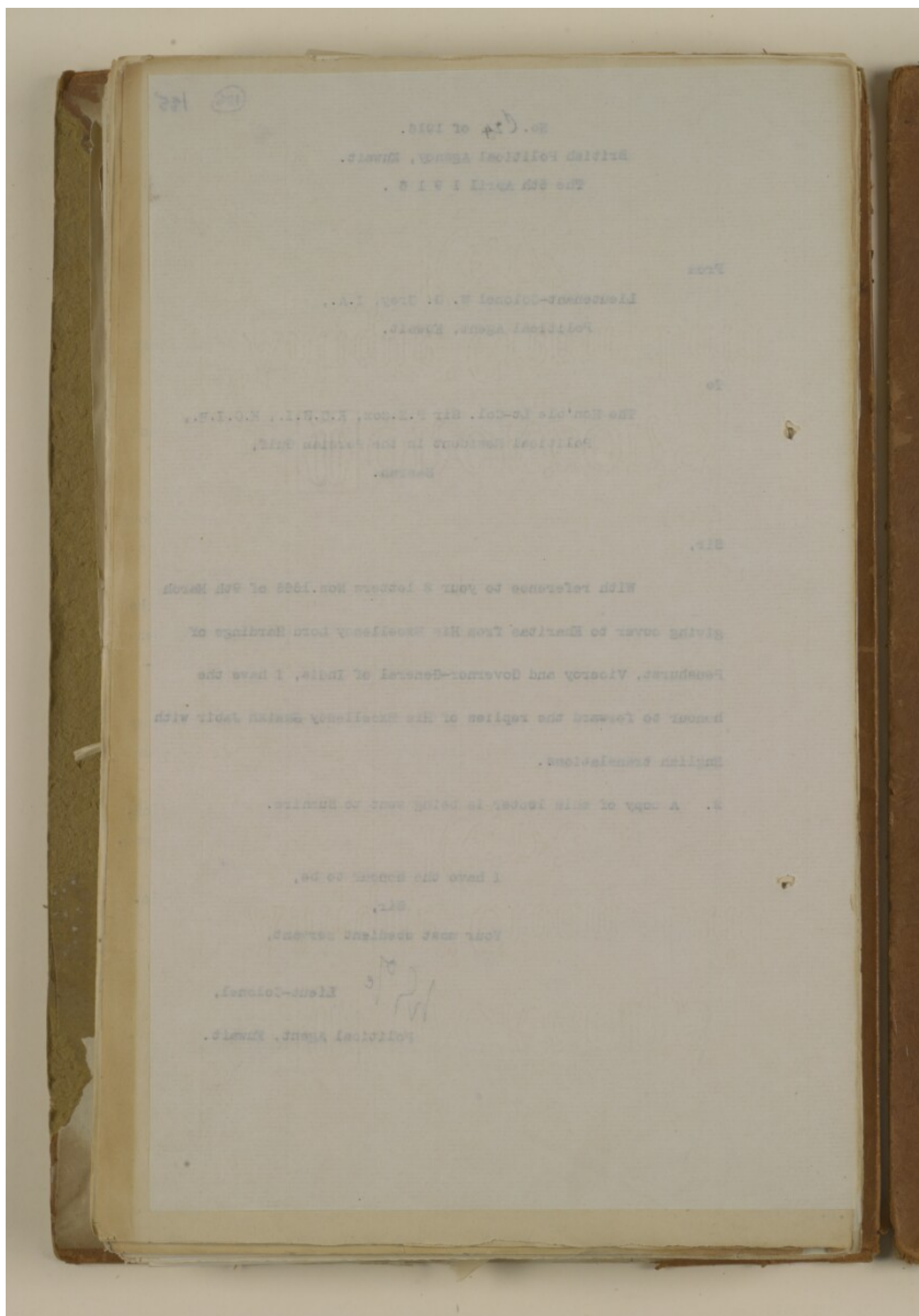
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

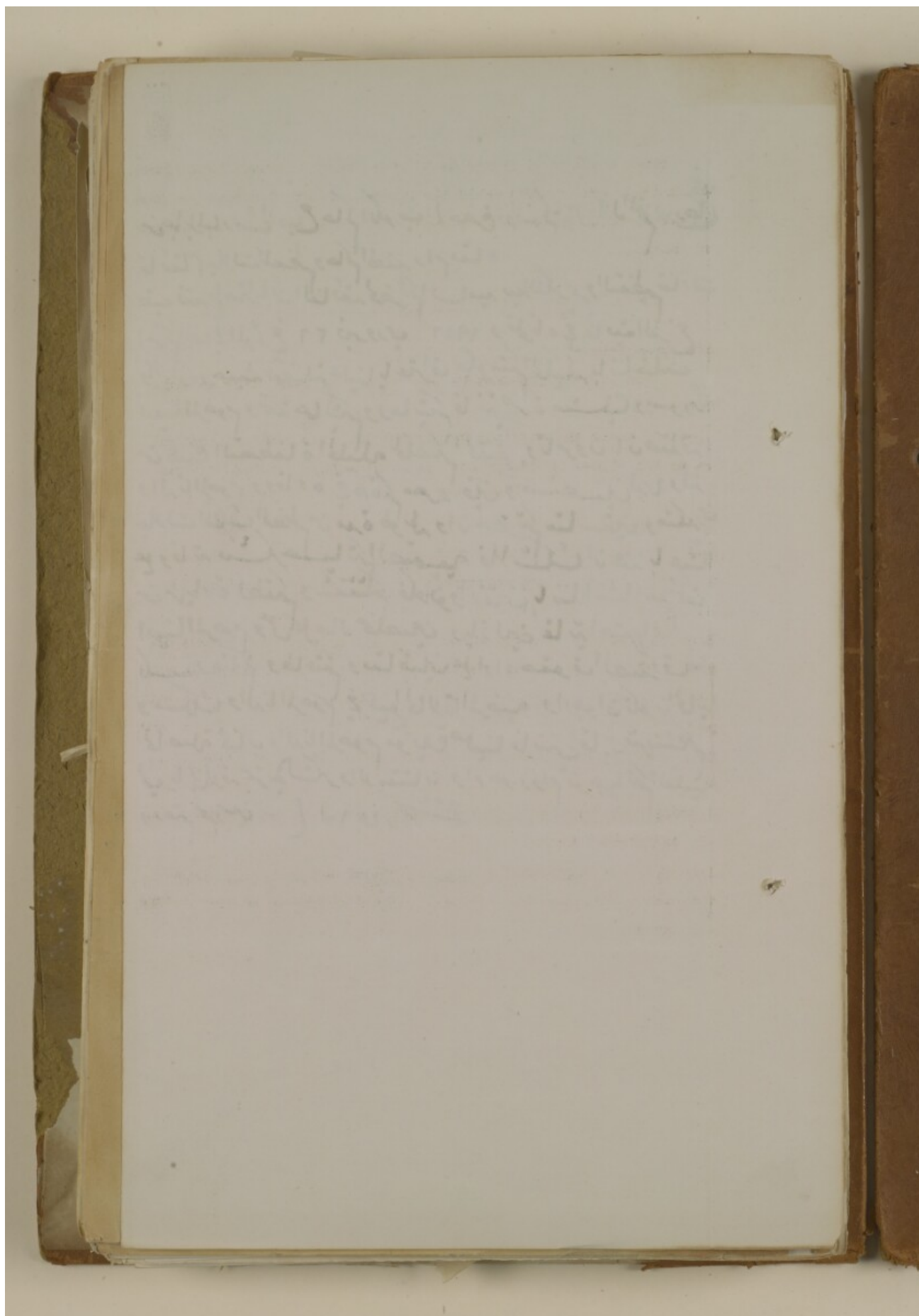
Lieut-Colonel,

Political Agent, Kuwait.





من جابر المبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت المحضرة ذوالنوك والجلال المنعم لارواحنا
 تأمنا جلالت العظم وحكم الهند وام بقاء
 غيب تغيب احترامنا الفائقه لحضرتكم الساميه بيه التكرم والتعظيم تناولت
 امركم العالي المورخ ٢٦ فبراير ١٩١٦ وتلونا في غاية الفرح
 والسور حيث تفضلتم علينا باعتراف حكومتكم الجليله باننا خلف
 ابينا المرحوم وتحت حمايتكم ورعايتكم فاشي صرة متلبا ومسرورا
 من هذه التعطفة الجليله لمخلصكم الحقيقي وتامرون بان صلقة
 والدهنا المرحوم ووفاءه في حقكم معروافين ومستحقين لمراد دولة
 جلالت الملك العظم من مدة طويلة وان حضرتكم متافين ومتكدرين
 مع وفاته متكر حباية الصميمه فلا شك ان هذا باعنا
 من زيادة لطفكم وشفتكم فكونوا ثقين باننا انشا الله خلف
 ابينا المرحوم وعلى كل حال مخلصين وباذل في غاية احترامنا
 لك رضاكم وطاعتكم ومطاطبين على اداء حقوق الصدقة
 ومسلكت والدهنا المرحوم في جميع الحالة المرضيه وارجوان تكون الحماية
 الحاصلة لجباب والدهنا المرحوم مؤيدة علينا فاشي قابل شرفكم
 لي بالافه بجزية شكر والامتنان وارجو دوام توجهاكم القلبية
 ودمتم محرومين
 ١٧ جمادى الاولى ١٣٤٤





188 187

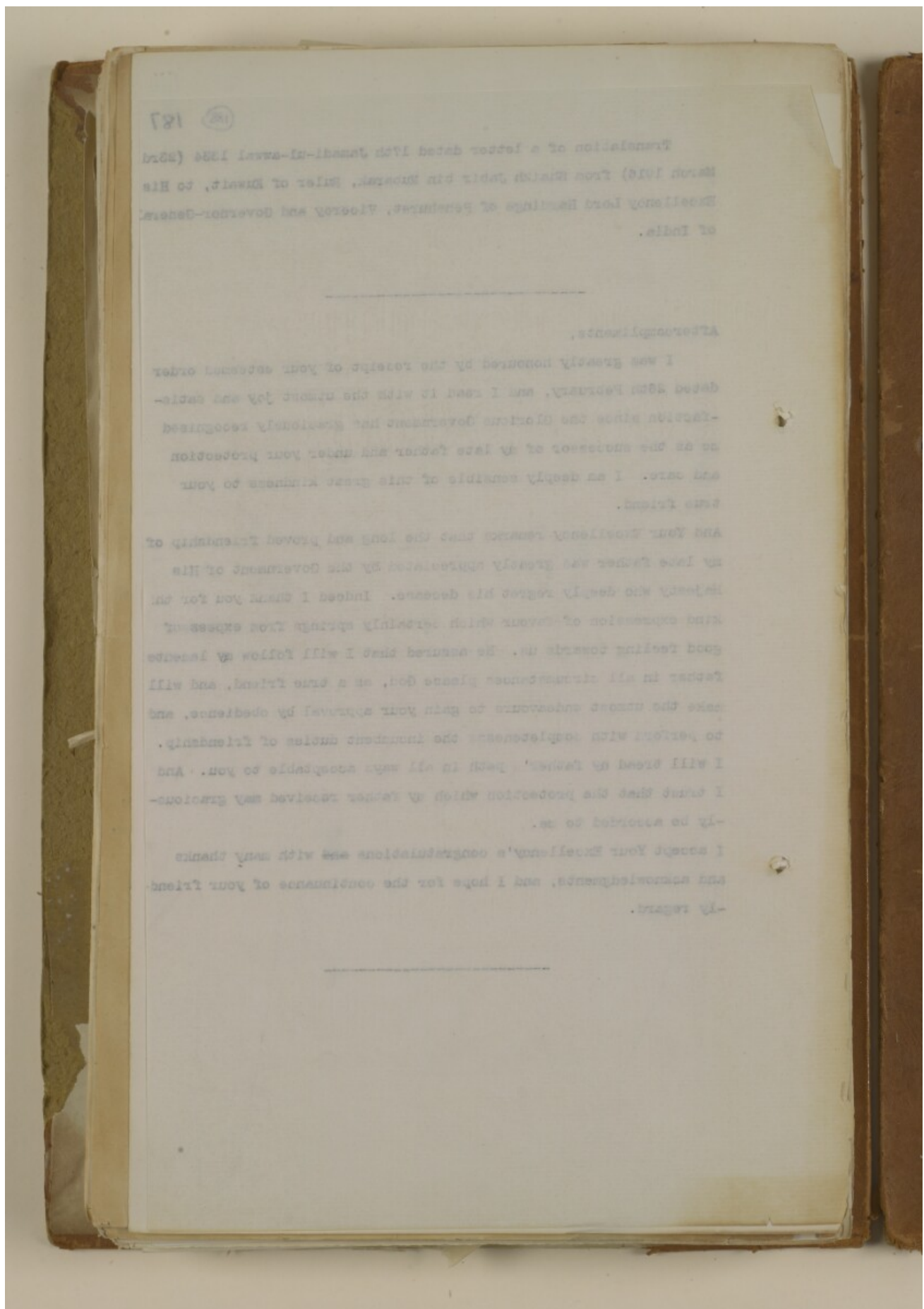
Translation of a letter dated 17th Jamadi-ul-awwal 1334 (23rd March 1916) from Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak, Ruler of Kuwait, to His Excellency Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

After compliments,

I was greatly honoured by the receipt of your esteemed order dated 26th February, and I read it with the utmost joy and satisfaction since the Glorious Government has graciously recognised me as the successor of my late father and under your protection and care. I am deeply sensible of this great kindness to your true friend.

And Your Excellency remarks that the long and proved friendship of my late father was greatly appreciated by the Government of His Majesty who deeply regret his decease. Indeed I thank you for the kind expression of favour which certainly springs from excess of good feeling towards us. Be assured that I will follow my lamented father in all circumstances please God, as a true friend, and will make the utmost endeavours to gain your approval by obedience, and to perform with completeness the incumbent duties of friendship. I will tread my father's path in all ways acceptable to you. And I trust that the protection which my father received may graciously be accorded to me.

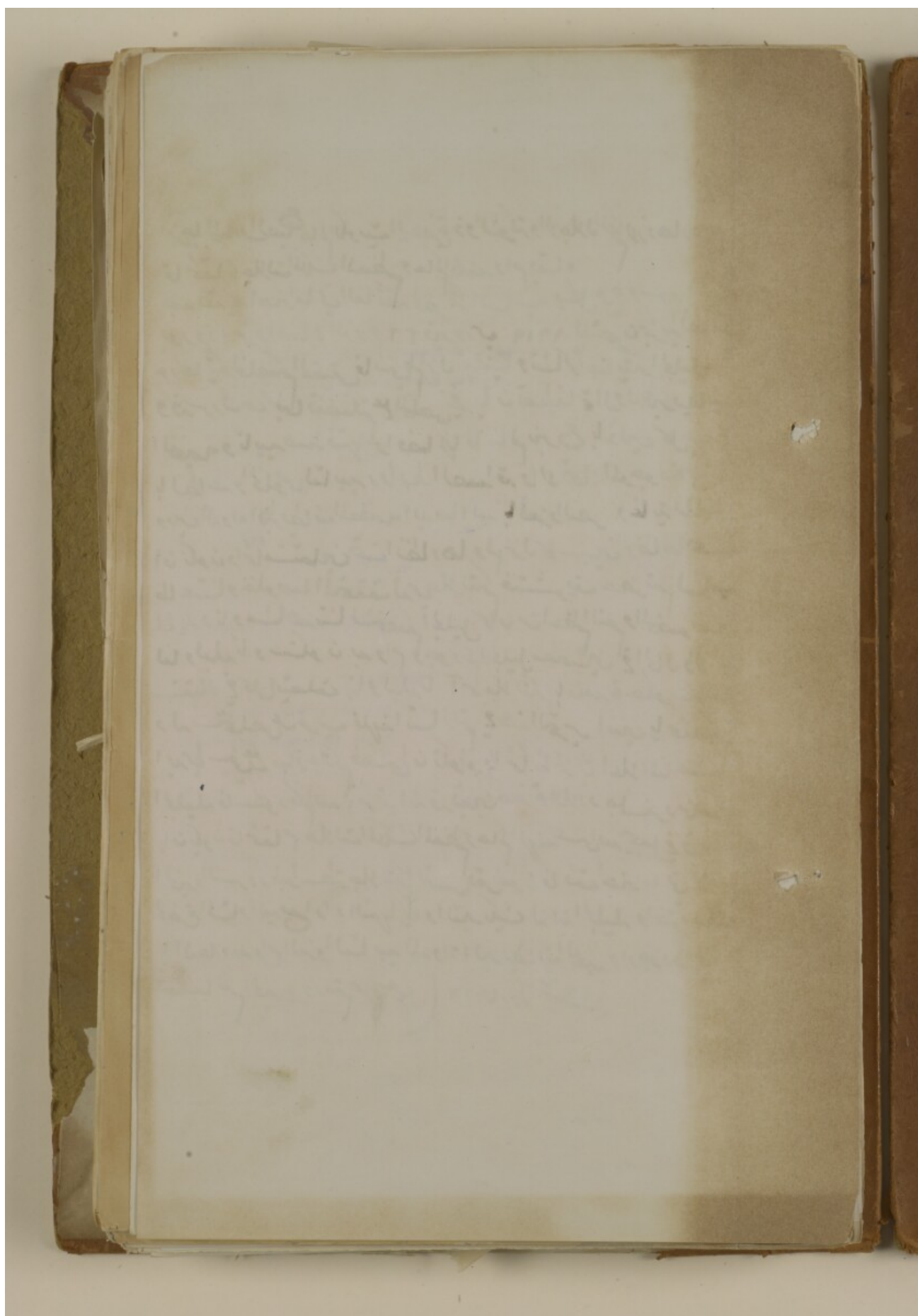
I accept Your Excellency's congratulations and with many thanks and acknowledgments, and I hope for the continuance of your friendly regard.





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من جبال البليار الصبح حاكم الكويت المحقق ذو الشوكة والجلال المحقق لورد هاردينج
 قائم مقام جلالت الملك المعظم وحاكم الهند دامت بقاء
 بعد قد سيم اعترافا مني الفائق لخدمته السامية بكل فرع وسرور وشرف
 بورود امركم العالي المؤرخ ٢٦ فبراير ١٦١٩ الشجون بجزيرة الطائف
 ورعايتكم لخلصكم الحقيقي فانشى لم ازل مشيا وشاكرا عنيتكم الجليله
 وقد سررت جدا بقبول تفضلتكم على المخلص في بيان تعطفه الدولة البريطانية
 النخيمه وتاييده صدقتم او افقا لها فانالم تبرج باذلين كل جهدها
 بالطاعه والخلص لتاييده روابط الصداقه والاتحاد الموجوده بيننا
 وبين الدوله البريطانيه المعظمه ايه هاهنا بالعز والنصر وغاية اماننا
 ان نكون دائما متعلين تحت انظارها ولم نزل كما سبقين رضاها بحب
 طاعتنا وخلصنا المتحقق لدرج جلالتهم فتشريف خدمته السامية
 الى بلادنا وما شهدتنا لخلصكم الجليل كان من اعظم النعم والمخوضيه
 لنا ولبليلهنا وستكون به وام وجودكم الجليل مطمئنين في الحال ولا
 شقيا في كل يتعلف بنا ولبليلهنا آمرا جلالتهم بان مده حاكمكم العا
 دله ستخلص عن قريب فلهذا اتنا زتم في هذه التمبر اسنن يا مخلصكم
 ابد يا سخي مع مبارحتكم فقصي ان تكونوا دائما حاضرين اعلا المناصب
 الجليله فاستودعكم الله امرتم انه قد بعين حفره اللاد جلفرد من بعدكم
 بان يكون قائم مقام جلالت الملك المعظم وحاكم الهند عسى الله يجعل في قومه
 الخير والسرور فبواسطه جلالتهم التمس قرضون فاقف اعترافا مني وخلص
 لوضع النار اليه مع ادا التبرايك والتبريك لانه الجليله واختم مع رضى
 بالدها وبه وام العز والتاييده للدولة البريطانيه النخيمه وارجو دوام
 تعطفكم الخيره ودمتم محرمين (١٧ جادول ١٢٤٤)





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Translation of a letter dated 17th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1334 (23rd March 1916) from Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak, Ruler of Kuwait to H.E. Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Viceroy and Governor General of India.

After compliments.

I was delighted and honoured by the receipt of your Excellency's esteemed order dated 26th February replete with favours to your sincere friend. And I am deeply obliged and grateful for the great kindness which you shew towards your friend, especially for what you graciously say regarding the friendship of Government and the strengthening of amicable relations. Know then that I will not cease to make every endeavour by obedience and devotion to strengthen the bonds of affection and unity which exist betweenme and the glorious British Government (may God assist her with honour and victory). And my chief hope is that we may always be among the recipients of her favours, and may invariably gain her approval by our obedience and devotion. Your Excellency will realise this (by our actions in the future).

Your Excellency's visit to our country and the privilege of meeting you conferred a great honour and pleasure upon our country and ourselves. We owe to you the present and future welfare of ourselves and our dominions

Your Excellency writes that the period of your tenure of the Viceroyalty is at an end. Know then that I greatly regret your departure, and trust that you will receive in the future even greater dignity of rank and position than that to which you have already attained.

Also Your Excellency has said that Lord Chelmsford has been appointed to succeed you as Viceroy and Governor General of India. May Heaven grant him joy and happiness. I beg Your Excellency to convey to him my respects and devotion, with suitable expressions of welcome and congratulation; and I close this letter with a prayer for the honour and welfare of the great British Government, and for the continuance of Your Excellency's personal interest and solicitude.



Translation of a letter dated 17th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1334 1913
March 1913) from Shaikh Jabir bin Mubarak, Ruler of Kuwait
to H.E. Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Viceroy and Governor
General of India.

After compliments.
I was delighted and honoured by the receipt of your Excellency's esteemed order dated 28th February replying with favours to your sincere friend. And I am deeply obliged and grateful for the great kindness which you show towards your friend, especially for what you graciously say regarding the friendship of Government and the strengthening of amicable relations. Know then that I will not cease to make every endeavour by obedience and devotion to strengthen the bonds of affection and unity which exist between us and the glorious British Government (may God assist her with honour and victory). And my chief hope is that we may always be among the recipients of her favours, and may invariably gain her approval by our obedience and devotion. Your Excellency will realise this (by our actions in the future).
Your Excellency's visit to our country and the privilege of meeting you conferred a great honour and pleasure upon our country and ourselves. We owe to you the present and future welfare of ourselves and our dominions.
Your Excellency writes that the period of your tenure of the Viceroyalty is at an end. Know then that I greatly regret your departure, and trust that you will receive in the future even greater dignity of rank and position than that to which you have already attained.
Also Your Excellency has said that Lord Ghalmaford has been appointed to succeed you as Viceroy and Governor General of India. May Heaven grant him joy and happiness. I beg Your Excellency to convey to him my respects and devotion, with suitable expressions of welcome and congratulation; and I

